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AIR FORCE REPORTEDLY RECEIVES ISRAELI PLANES

PY201509 Paris AFP in Spanish 1240 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (AFP) -- Military sources revealed here today that the Argentine Air Force has reportedly received a consignment of Israeli Dagger supersonic fighter planes to replace those that were lost during the Malvinas conflict. According to what has been learned, the planes, modified versions of the French Mirage V, arrived over the weekend at the port of Buenos Aires unassembled and loaded in containers. They were later transferred to the metropolitan airport in order to be sent to bases in the interior of the country.

A large security operation, which included members from the police and armed forces, was carried out yesterday around the airport. The operation caused quite a few rumors, some to the effect that a group of smugglers was being arrested.

Although no official information has been released, on the grounds that it is a question of national security, the sources revealed that a group of Israeli military advisers arrived with the consignment.

After the conflict with Great Britain over the Malvinas, the Argentine Air Force announced its intention to replace the lost combat units, which were basically Mirage III, Dagger and Skyhawk A4P fighter-bombers and interceptors.

Security Operation at Airport

PY201854 Buenos Aires CRONICA in Spanish 20 Dec 82 p 8

[Text] A security operation was carried out early yesterday morning in a large area around the metropolitan airport. Air force personnel and members of the Federal Police participated in the operation and while it was under way several adjacent streets were closed.

Despite the total secrecy that was maintained at the Condor Building, air force headquarters, it was learned yesterday from reliable sources that the security operation was implemented to cover another operation that was termed a "national security secret."

During the course of the security operation, which lasted from 0100 [0400 GMT] to 0500 [0800 GMT], air force personnel proceeded to transfer materiel that had arrived in the country by ship to the interior of the country. This military materiel, spare parts for supersonic and subsonic planes, which had been purchased some time ago by the air force, was first sent to the military area of the Jorge Newberry Airport and was then transferred to air force bases in the interior of the country.

According to what has been learned, it was a routine resupply operation. The operation is part of the plans to train specialized personnel and maintain in optimum condition the force's units, mainly those on the bases for supersonic and subsonic planes.

VENEZUELAN NAVY COMMANDER ARRIVES 18 DECEMBER

PY210142 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Venezuelan Navy Commander in Chief Vice Adm Jesus Rafael Bertorelli, who arrived on 18 December on an official visit, has paid protocol visits to the commanders of the three armed forces. He has also met with the Buenos Aires mayor and the Venezuelan ambassador to Argentina. Vice Admiral Bertorelli met with Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot at 1900 GMT today.

ITALIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES; WILL DISCUSS MISSING

PY192015 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Dec 82 p 9

[Text] A five-member Italian parliamentary delegation arrived in Buenos Aires yesterday to gather information regarding the fate of Italian nationals and people of Italian origin who disappeared during the military's drive against leftwing terrorism during the late seventies.

The head of the mission, Ferruccio Pisoni, was quoted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS newsagency as saying the team was planning to work on "a wide range of topics," but would "not specifically" focus on the problem of missing people in the Italian community. Meanwhile, other delegation members told the DIARIOS Y NOTICIAS newsagency they will "do everything possible to shed light to this problem," when asked whether they expected the "disappeared" people to be released alive.

According to Italian sources, the parliamentary delegation was deliberately playing down the issue of the missing people at the Argentine Government's request.

The mission, led by Christian Democrat Pisoni, will be in Buenos Aires until early next week, on the basis of a bilateral treaty on social security which provides for regular visits by Italian members of parliament to look at the living conditions of the Italian community here.

But Pisoni, who told reporters there was "no set date" for the committee's return to Italy, also said his mission will be paving the way for a visit to Argentina of the Italian Congress foreign relations committee next March. The congressman also denied that the Italian Government's request for information on the disappeared was part of a plan "to turn the Italian people's attention away from the problems at home." He explained that his trip, which was "planned a long time ago," followed pressure from both congressmen and the public, who are demanding that the Italian Government take action against the Argentine authorities regarding the disappearances of Italian nationals, who belong to "a large community outside our country we cannot forget about."

"We represent Congress, not the government," Pisoni stated, adding they were "ready to inquire into all the problems faced by the Italian community here, including that of missing people." Queried about why the Italian parliament apparently took so many years to start worrying about its missing nationals in Argentina, Pisoni said "political sectors have raised this problem in the past," but it was only when the plan of a mission to Buenos Aires was made public that the problem of the disappeared climbed to the top of issues on the agenda.

Asked whether he expected the Italian mission to be successful, Pisoni expressed his hopes to find "open doors" with Argentine authorities, adding: "It is our duty to answer (the Italian people's) questions, we are here to clear up everything."

POLITICIANS SCORE POLICE REPRESSION DURING MARCH

PY171824 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- Various parties and political leaders unanimously repudiated the violent repression that the police unleashed after the march for democracy and national reconstruction staged yesterday.

The Peronist Youth issued a communique repudiating "the violent and unjustified police repression" and wondered whether "this is the political opening and the freedom of expression that have been promised," by the government.

The communique of the Intransigent Party, signed by Oscar Alende, stated that "on this historic day when the people voiced peacefully and massively their categoric repudiation of an antinational and antipopular dictatorship...they received hysterical and indiscriminate repression as the only answer."

The Argentine Socialist Confederation scored the "unjustified repression carried out by the police" and called upon all "political parties to accompany the mortal remains of young (Dalmiro Flores) to the place of burial."

Juan Jose Taccone, leader of the light and power union, said that the march "demonstrated once again that unity of the national forces against the antinational minority groups" and added that repression "is no longer a sign of arrogance of the regime but of its fear of the people and this fear leads the military government to make mistakes."

Radical leader Luis Leon, head of the Irigoyenist Affirmative Movement (MAI) [a faction of the Radical Civic Union], said that last night's incidents in the Plaza de Mayo were carried out by "minority groups which do not believe in coexistence."

Popular Leftist Front

PY171433 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0138 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (DYN) -- Today the Popular Leftist Front (FIP) criticized the "savage repression with which the dictatorship ended the demonstration of a peaceful and indignant people" and said that "this proves, once again, that the dictatorship will only leave if the popular mobilization is carried on and strengthened."

A communique signed by Jorge Spilimbergo, national FIP secretary general, states that "FIP celebrates with the entire Argentine people the impressive mobilization to repudiate the oligarchic dictatorship, protest a policy of hunger and surrender and demand immediate elections, which will put an end to a shameful regime." The communique ends by denouncing the sectarian policy of those who advocate struggle and then stay at home, and notes that what has happened "reveals the sincerity of the military leadership and Minister Reston's 'democratic convictions' and that the oligarchic regime of the 'financial fatherland' will not leave on its own free will; it has to be kicked out."

Communist Party

PY171448 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0136 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (DYN) -- The Central Committee of the Argentine Communist Party [PCA] has protested "energetically the provocation against the demonstration organized by the Multiparty Group."

In a communique issued this evening the PCA states that "the PCA's column, consisting of 25,000 people, started marching in an orderly manner from the corner of Parana and Rivadavia Streets" and that it continued marching orderly, chanting slogans calling "for democracy, for the citizenry's freedoms, for the missing persons, for advancing elections and other issues," until "the head of the column reached the cabildo."

The document then points out that before the column entered the Plaza de Mayo area "the first sounds of tear gas shots were heard." It adds that "strong repression was launched against the PCA column, which had behaved in its characteristic correct and disciplined manner."

The document then states that "for all this we voice our most energetic protest and point out that this type of action will never prevent the (?people's) struggle for democracy, bread and work." The PCA communique ends by stating that "today's demonstration, meanwhile, will open new paths for the unity of the Argentine people."

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE REGRETS MARCH VIOLENCE

PY210108 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (TELAM) -- The permanent commission of the Argentine episcopal conference deeply regrets the developments of the mobilization organized yesterday by the Multiparty Group at the Plaza de Mayo, which no Argentine can approve and which do not contribute to the desired reconciliation.

A press communique issued this afternoon at the end of the bishops' meeting, which started last Wednesday in this capital, pointed out that at the time that the current national situation was being discussed it was learned with sorrow about the developments during what the bishops termed an expression of support for principles staged by the citizenry held yesterday.

In referring to the work carried out by the bishops' social pastoral commission, the document points out that "the first phase consisted namely in listening to the statements of various leaders about the country's situation. It is hoped that during a second phase all those who took part will state the objectives of the specific contributions the sector or groups they represent will make to the reconciliation process.

The episcopate's permanent commission also reminds all the faithful about the day of prayer to be held on Sunday [19 December] and state: So that every Christian may learn where to place his confidence we are going to hold the community meetings to talk with God -- we are not going to stage demonstrations -- in order to learn how to talk with men. The document adds that "we will start by praying for the dead, all those dead for whom we mourn due to the violence of these years, precisely as a sign of reconciliation."

Various issues prompted by the bishops, through the delegates of the diocese, were discussed during the sessions which ended at noon today. This was the last meeting of the permanent commission for 1982.

BRIEFS

NEW PARTY CREATED -- Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- The creation of a new party, the Party for Independence [Partido de la Independencia], was announced today. This party, which follows a nationalist line, proposes an emergency plan to avoid civil war. Leaders of the new party in the federal capital and in Buenos Aires Province are: Eduardo Arias Duval, Fernando Esteva, Carlos Tocagni, Roberto Raffaelli, Osvaldo Destefani, Alfredo Salinas, Rodolfo Iribarne, Hugo Esteva, Anibal Dangelo Rodriguez, Mauro Segret and Cesar Vespasiano. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0055 GMT 15 Dec 82 PY]

NO 'REVERSE' SEEN IN CHILEAN OAS PROTEST

PY201404 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1842 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpt] La Paz, 18 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Bolivian Foreign Minister Mario Velarde has denied that the inclusion of a Chilean protest against the OAS resolution on Bolivia's landlocked situation is a reverse for this country.

Chilean Foreign Minister Rene Rojas maintained 2 days ago that the inclusion of his country's protest is a reverse for Bolivia's foreign policy.

Answering Rojas' statements, Velarde told the press that the position did not seem to be a very serious one, namely, to try to make it appear that the resolution had lost its force just because a protest against it was lodged. However, the resolution is fully in force and was approved with the favorable vote of 24 countries, 3 abstentions and no unfavorable votes. Bolivia's triumph in the OAS is a tangible fact, because it is the outcome of a resolution that benefits Bolivia's just cause for an outlet to the sea, Velarde said.

ANEZ SAYS ARMED FORCES TO SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY

PY202009 Paris AFP in Spanish 1017 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] La Paz, 17 Dec (AFP) -- "The Bolivian Armed Forces will safeguard democracy and will never again use their power against the people," armed forces Chief or Staff Gen Lucio Anez Rivero stated here.

The assertion by the high military chief was apparently a response to a recent speech delivered by labor leader Juan Lechin Oquendo, who said that the danger of a military coup has not vanished, since coup-plotting generals are standing by, waiting for their chance.

Lucio Anez Rivero is one of the generals expecting a promotion in the next general order of assignments. His well known (?inclination) toward constitutional governments has made him one of the main constitutionalist chiefs of the armed forces.

NEWSPAPER SAYS CABINET TO BE RESHUFFLED

PY172206 Paris AFP in Spanish 1415 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] La Paz, 17 Dec (AFP) -- The newspaper HOY of La Paz has reported that President Hernan Siles Zuazo's cabinet will be reshuffled. Attributing the report to authorized sources, the daily said that the reshuffle will be aimed at expediting the handling of public matters. The newspaper also stated that most of the cabinet members will retain their posts. However, it did not dismiss the possibility of changes in some of the most important portfolios.

BRIEFS

$35-MILLION IDB LOAN -- It has been reported from Washington that the IDB approved a loan of $35 million to Bolivia yesterday. The funds will be channeled through the Bolivian Central Bank and will be used to support industry and private mining. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Dec 82 PY]

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO RESCHEDULE BOLIVIA'S DEBT

PY180219 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Brasilia -- At Bolivia's request, the Brazilian Government agreed to reschedule payment by Bolivia of its $142-million debt. Brazil will also open a $50-million line of credit to finance exports of Brazilian products to the Bolivian market. The announcement was made today by the chief of the Finance Ministry's office for international affairs upon releasing a joint statement signed by Brazilian Finance Minister Ernane Galveas and Bolivian Finance Minister Ernesto Aranibar Quiroga.

MONETARY COUNCIL APPROVES 1983 BUDGET

PY171838 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpts] In a meeting held today at the Finance Ministry in Brasilia, the National Monetary Council [CMN] approved the 1983 budget, which will have to be instrumental in reducing the inflation rate to 70 percent and in allowing the trade balance to yield a $6.1 billion surplus in the next 12 months. In keeping with this policy aimed at reducing inflation, a consolidated budget will be established within the Planning Ministry.

Finance Minister Ernane Galveas said: [Begin Galveas recording] The budgets of the federal government and those of state-owned enterprises have been reconciled and consolidated so that surplus funds totaling 12.4 billion cruzeiros may become available in 1983. These funds will be earmarked for the objectives established in the budget and for programs that are not included in the federal government's budget. [end recording]

There have also been changes concerning small and medium-sized enterprises. [Begin Galveas recording] Although maintaining the same philosophy, the CMN approved a change in the present system so that from now on interest rates applicable to these enterprises will be linked to the consumer price index [CPI]. For interest rates in the northern and northeastern regions, these rates will be based on 55 percent of the CPI plus a 6 percent interest rate; those in the central and southern regions, 60 percent of the CPI plus 6 percent. [end recording]

Central Bank President Carlos Langoni also described the new policy. [Begin Langoni recording] A gradual policy, the expansion goal is 60 percent. Yet we believe that with a large transfer of fiscal resources and with a sharp reduction of both direct and indirect subsidies we will be able to have a monetary budget, a monetary program which can be implemented. [end recording]

Langoni said that another important consequence of these measures will be the drop in real interest rates on the free market, which will create more favorable conditions for a gradual recovery of private investments.

Langoni also emphasized measures adopted concerning the money exchange system, noting that the cruzeiro minidevaluation policy will be maintained and will be kept at between 18 and 20 percent. [Begin Langoni recording] The minidevaluation system will actually continue and beginning in January we will be implementing a mechanism whereby the average monetary devaluation will be 1 percent higher than the inflation rate of the respective month. [end recording]

Langoni said this formula will make Brazilian exports competitive in 1983 and will use the monetary exchange mechanism to obtain a $6 billion surplus.

BANKS MUST RENEGOTIATE OR COLLECT DEBTS DUE

FY210236 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Dec 82

[By (Ricardo Uzua) from the Ministry of Finance]

[Text] Carlos Caceres, president of the Chilean Central Bank, has instructed financial institutions to get in touch by 31 January 1983 with the so-called feasible debtors, that is, those whose situation has an economic solution, and renegotiate their debts. Among these feasible debtors, those who owe less than 1 million pesos should have their debts renegotiated by 28 February 1983.

The office of the superintendent for banks and financial organizations has recommended that all financial institutions should renegotiate debts with terms of payments between 2 and 6 years. The other so-called feasible debtors should have their debts renegotiated by 31 March 1983.

The financial institutions will have to collect those debts that have not been renegotiated by the above-mentioned deadlines and will have to make additional provisions, which the office of the superintendent will establish in due time.

During his announcement Mr Caceres was accompanied by Rolf Luders, minister of economy and finance, and by (Tony Blanco), superintendent for banks and financial institutions.

The instructions of the Central Bank also indicate that in addition to the usual issuance of currency the Central Bank makes to support the financial institutions, it will provide the solutions for whatever problems may crop up as a result of debt renegotiation. This supporting issuance of currency [apoyo de liquidez] will be directly related to the amounts and terms of payment of the arrangements reached with commercial and productive debtors considered feasible, as long as those debtors have no connections with the financial institution involved.

As to the debtors considered nonfeasible, that is, those whose financial problems cannot be resolved, regardless of the amount of their debt to financial institutions, those financial institutions involved must go to court within 30 days of 1 January 1983 in order to collect the debt. The period between today and that date will be used by the office of the superintendent and the financial organizations to review the section of nonfeasible debtors to see whether there is no additional information which could change the status of some of them. At the end of the 30-day period mentioned above, the financial institutions will have to make the additional provisions, which the office of the superintendent will establish.

EXILED UNION LEADER SEES PINOCHET THREATENED

FY162106 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2311 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] Brussels, 15 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- A Chilean union leader who was expelled from his country earlier this month said today that political repression in Chile has reached unprecedented levels. Manuel Bustos, chairman of the Chilean National Union Coordinating Board, said in a press conference that the government of President Augusto Pinochet was threatened from all sectors, including the armed forces themselves.

Bustos reported that he was expelled on 2 December along with Hector Cuevas, president of the Union of Construction Workers, for having organized an unauthorized demonstration in Santiago to protest the government's monetary policy.

Bustos, who came to Brussels to attend a meeting of the ICFTU, said that workers, employers and many armed forces officers are convinced that General Pinochet should be replaced and a civilian government reestablished.

Pinochet seized power after overthrowing Socialist President Salvador Allende in September 1973.

Bustos said General Pinochet feels threatened and has increased domestic political repression. He added that only 2 weeks ago Pinochet warned military officers about a possible coup.

Bustos said the rigid monetary policy applied by Pinochet has caused dissatisfaction among employers. He added that a federation of employers recently lodged its own protest and that one of its main leaders was also expelled. He noted that nearly 1 million Chileans are out of work, that hundreds of factories have been forced to close and that the situation is so desperate that Chileans are beginning to defy repression and are preparing to protest openly.

Bustos said he is convinced that there are clear signs that a return to civilian rule and to democracy will originate within the armed forces, since many officers consider that Pinochet's policy has failed. He added that the slow steps toward democracy that have taken place in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina will also have an impact on Chile.

PCCH'S CORVALAN: PINOCHET'S OUSTER MAIN TASK

PA191419 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Luis Corvalan, secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh], has said in Mexico City that the end of Pinochet's regime is a matter of time, as well as of struggle and the unity of all Chileans.

In an article published by UNO MAS UNO, Corvalan added that the new Bolivian Government proves the strength of the masses and that the trends in South America run counter to what Pinochet represents.

In referring to the actions and the alternatives of the Chilean working class, he said that the main task is to oust Pinochet and leave the issue of the future government for a second debate. He added that the PCCh feels that a government of transition, which would call for a constituent assembly, is a possibility following the ousting of the regime. The people then can decide the country's definite future through universal suffrage.

JOINT COMMISSION WITH COLOMBIA ENDS MEETINGS

PY172210 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Import achievements resulted from the meeting of the seventh Chilean-Colombian joint commission which ended today. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergio Covarruvias pointed out that agreements on technical and scientific cooperation were reached as well as in agricultural and trade exchange fields. The Chilean official pointed out that during these past few days there has been an open dialogue [words indistinct] that reaffirms the fact that the two countries share the same interest in strengthening information exchange programs.

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYEMNT IN GREATER SANTIAGO -- The National Statistics Institute reported yesterday that uneployment in greater Santiago reached 24.6 percent during September-November 1982. [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Dec 82 pp A 1, A 16 PY]

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN MONTEVIDEO

PY201558 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1908 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir began a 3-day official visit to Uruguay at noon today. Uruguay will be the last leg of Minister Shamir's Latin American tour.

Shamir arrived in Montevideo from Punta del Este, a seaside resort where he held a round of meetings with Israeli ambassadors accredited to eight South American countries. Israeli Embassy sources in Montevideo stated that Israel's present and future political and economic prospects in South America were analyzed during the meeting Shamir held with the Israeli ambassadors accredited to Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru and Uruguay. Shamir, who arrived in Uruguay from Argentina, stated that these meetings are a normal procedure used in planning the Foreign Ministry's activities.

The visiting minister was met at Carrasco International Airport by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso. On Tuesday, Shamir and Maeso will sign another economic and cultural agreement aimed at strengthening traditionally close ties, Shamir said in brief remarks he made upon his arrival.

Shamir recalled that Uruguay granted asylum to many Jews during the ill-fated days of the diaspora brought about by the Nazi persecution. In 1947, Uruguay was one of the staunchest promoters of the UN's diplomatic solution, a solution that made it possible for Israel to become an independent state within the international community. Israel has always felt grateful toward Uruguay, Shamir stated. The Israeli foreign minister had stated in Punta del Este a few days before that relations between the two countries are fortunately very good.

The visiting minister's agenda includes meetings with various diplomats and with foreign trade officials. Shamir also has a meeting scheduled with President Gregorio Alvarez. Shamir will meet today with leaders of the Israeli Central Committee and of the Zionist Organization of Uruguay. Shamir will begin contacts with Uruguayan Government officials tomorrow.

Shamir's entourage is made up of Yo'el Bar-Romi, Israeli Foreign Ministry deputy director general in charge of Latin American affairs; Menahem Karmi, director of the South American desk; Yosi Ben-Aron, chief of the foreign minister's staff; and Avi Pazner, Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Interviewed on Arms Exports

PY210153 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2155 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 20 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- In statements published today by the Uruguayan media, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel is willing to grant military aid to any country, regardless of the leanings of the government.

In an interview published by the newspaper EL DIA, granted on the second day of his 3-day official visit to Uruguay, Shamir stated that Israel wishes to promote its exports in the defense and agrarian technology fields.

Shamir, who arrived from Argentina -- a customer for Israeli-made arms including the Kfir fighter plane, which is the Israeli version of the French Mirage bomber -- said that we help any country that requests our aid without interfering with or investigating into their internal regimes.

The Israeli minister did not state whether he had discussed the subject of arms supply with Uruguayan authorities. However, tomorrow he will sign an economic and cultural agreement, the terms of which were not discussed, with his Uruguayan counterpart Carlos Maeso.

The visiting minister today held a lengthy meeting with his advisers, Minister Maeso and foreign trade and policy specialists of the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry.

NEW MINISTER SAYS ECONOMIC POLICY WON'T CHANGE

PY152139 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Excerpts] In a statement made to El Espectador at noon today at Government House, Economy and Finance Minister Walter Lusiardo Aznares stated that some changes might be introduced in some instruments of the government's new economic policy. He made the statement shortly after being officially appointed as the new economy and finance minister by the president of the republic. (Leopoldo Real), current national director of industries, was named economy and finance under secretary. Lusiardo stated, however, that the liberal, open philosophy that guides the government's economic policy will remain unchanged.

At the end of the ceremony held at Government House, Lusiardo made the following remarks:

[Begin recording] [Lusiardo] There is no intention of changing the economic policy. There may be, as was done on 25 November, a different utilization of instruments to reach the same goal because, in any economic policy, instruments should be ajusted to current circumstances both nationally and internationally, as you well know.

[Question] Minister Lusiardo, have the negotiations with IMF representatives concluded?

[Answer] They are now fully underway, I would say at their peak. We want to reach basic agreements before the year-end holidays and we do not have much time. One thing we believe important to emphasize is that we are working on a 2-year plan for 1983 and 1984, and we obviously should be quite accurate in our program -- although there can always be distortions -- but we should be accurate so as not to be planning something which we may have to discard later. The delay we have been experiencing is precisely to gather data that would be as accurate as possible for the 2-year period, at such imbalanced times for both the national and international economy. [end recording]

NEW INDUSTRY, ENERGY MINISTER APPOINTED

PY151742 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Juan Antonio Chiarino Rossi, the new minister of industry and energy who will be sworn in at 1900 today, told this station at noon today that he was full of optimism. He added that the measures implemented within the framework of the economic policy will reactivate industry, especially those sectors which produce export goods.

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING, INFLATION -- Montevideo, 14 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- The general statistics and census bureau reports that the cost of living decreased by 0.59 percent during November, and that the inflation rate reached 10.96 percent during the first 11 months of 1982. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2049 GMT 14 Dec 82 PY]

PESO QUOTED AT 150 TO DOLLAR ON FREE MARKET

PA201614 Paris AFP in Spanish 1601 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Dec (AFP) -- The Mexican peso was quoted at 150 per dollar on the free market today as the general exchange controls ordered by former President Jose Lopez Portillo on 1 September were rescinded.

ROK PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES TO MEET PRESIDENT

FL202048 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0408 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- ROK Prime Minister Kim Sang-hyop arrived here today on an unofficial 4-day visit. He will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado. Accompanied by his wife, (Suk Kim), and a small delegation, the prime minister arrived in Mexico City's international airport at 2000 this evening.

He was received at the airport's official lounge by Carlos Gonzalez Parodi, director of protocol of the Foreign Relations Secretariat, and Fernando Elias Calles, director of Asian Studies who welcomed him on behalf of the Mexican Government.

This is the first time in 20 years that a Korean prime minister has paid a visit to our country to strengthen friendly bilateral relations, said an ROK Embassy release.

The official made no statements on his arrival, but announced his itinerary during his stay here. On Monday he will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid and later with other senior government officials.

Seeks Help in Uniting Korea

PA210211 Paris AFP in Spanish 2209 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Dec (AFP) -- ROK Prime Minister Kim Sang-hyop is visiting Mexico to seek the Mexican Government's help in reunifying the two Koreas.

The Korean official told the press that he came to Mexico to congratulate President Miguel de la Madrid on his presidential inauguration on 1 December.

He also expressed the hope that the Mexican Government would use its good offices with North Korea or the various world organizations "so that a dialogue may be held as soon as possible and rapprochement established between the two Koreas to achieve a peaceful reunification," the prime minister said.

The Korean leader said that Mexico has achieved international recognition since it hosted the North-South dialogue in Cancun, has worked in the search for peace in Central America and has actively promoted world disarmament.

COSTA RICA

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ON FOREIGN DEBT TALKS

PA180340 Paris AFP in Spanish 1758 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpts] San Jose, 17 Dec (AFP) -- The coordinating committee of Costa Rica's 180 creditor banks has agreed to grant this country a $230-million credit to partially finance its imports and to meet its economy's credit needs.

Carlos Manuel Castillo, executive president of the Central Bank, said that the contingency agreement with Costa Rica has been placed on the agenda of the IMF board for 20 December, and that it is expected to be approved before the end of the year.

As for the creditor banks, Castillo said the first goal of the negotiations has been achieved. It consisted of paying interest accrued up to December 1982 in the amount of $280 million and interest payable during 1983 of some $170 million. According to Castillo, these payments will be made with Costa Rica's own funds and some $508 million of capital to be received from international bodies such as the World Bank, IDB, AID and other similar organizations in Canada and several European countries.

Castillo added that the Paris Club will meet in France on 17 January to renegotiate Costa Rica's so-called bilateral debt.

"The short-term negotiations with the IMF, the creditor banks and the Paris Club will be concluded during the first weeks of 1983," said Castillo, who expressed optimism over the development of the negotiations.

He added that medium-term negotiations will begin by 1983. These include an expanded agreement with the IMF, a structural readjustment with the World Bank and the renegotiation of the foreign debt.

Finally, Castillo stressed that one of the basic goals consists of increasing exports -- which have remained stagnant at $1 billion for the last 2 years -- as the only means to repay Costa Rica's overall foreign debt of approximately $4 billion.

PVP LEADER CRITICIZES MONGE POLICY ON NICARAGUA

PA191935 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Manuel Mora Valverde, secretary general of the Costa Rican Popular Vanguard Party [PVP], has again demanded that Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge present proof of the serious groundless charges he has made against the Nicaraguan Government.

In a letter published by the weekly LIBERTAD, the communist leader questions the real reasons that led Monge to break diplomatic relations with the Sandinist government. [sentence as heard] In his letter, Mora Valverde rejects the Costa Rican president's views about an alleged Nicaraguan and Cuban plan to promote strikes, sabotage and other actions in Costa Rica with the participation of the Costa Rican communists.

COMMITTEE REPORTS EXISTENCE OF UNOFFICIAL ARMY

PA202038 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] The Committee of Solidarity With Costa Rican Political Prisoners has said in Mexico City that there is an army in Costa Rica, not officially recognized, that contains 30,000 armed men, including over 5,000 former Somozist guardsmen, who are increasing their repressive acts against the people on a daily basis. (Henry Howard), the committee's coordinator in Mexico, said there is a prevalence of the use of violence, arbitrary arrests, torture and other forms of terrorism against the Costa Rican people who are protesting the difficult situation in which they live.

'VERY SMALL' GROUP OF DEPUTIES TO VISIT CUBA

PA201510 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Only a very small group of deputies will go to Cuba in the second week of January in response to an invitation extended by Fidel Castro's government through the representatives of the Popular Vanguard Party. Those deputies who will make the trip have said they are interested in observing agricultural and fishing programs, areas in which the Cubans have developed many techniques. In addition, several of those who are going have said an effort should be made to alleviate the tension between the Costa Rican and Cuban Governments resulting from the alleged involvement of the Castro government in internal Central American affairs.

EL SALVADOR

ARENA VOWS ITS MINISTERS WILL NOT RESIGN

PA201956 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] The Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] ministers will not resign. The internal conflicts among its members are continuing. There is some conflict between the agriculture and economy ministers.

This was announced by Arena members today. The Sunday News Focus [name of newscast] was informed that Arena's ministers will remain in their positions, according to announcements made by the party's executive committee, which is led by Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson.

The Arena leaders have decided that their ministers will not resign from their posts as requested by President Alvaro Magana. According to reports received within the party, there has been some minor friction between Agriculture Minister Miguel Muyshondt Yudice and Economy Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro.

Sources have told this newscast that it is expected that this situation will be resolved within the next 48 hours, before the deadline set by President Magana for the presentation of resignations.

Meanwhile, President Magana has said he will dismiss ministers who fail to present their resignations. In addition, Vice President Raul Molina Martinez has confirmed that there are problems with the Arena ministers. Molina Martinez said in the last few hours that President Magana remains determined, in his capacity as leader of the nation, to dismiss all ministers, under secretaries or secretaries of state who fail to resign before 23 December.

The decision, which was confirmed by the vice president, is based primarily on the president's determination to correct certain minor deficiencies in certain ministries. It has been learned that these minor defects or problems are being caused by certain ministers belonging to the Arena Party.

RUMORS 'FLY' OF COUP LED BY ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON

OW210605 Hong Kong AFP in English 0552 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] San Salvador, Dec. 21 (AFP) -- Rumors flew among El Salvador's politicians Monday night that right wing leader Major Roberto d'Aubuisson was preparing a coup against President Alvaro Magana.

This followed Major d'Aubuisson's rejection of a request by the president for the whole cabinet to resign. Major d'Aubuisson said he feared the purpose of the requested resignation was for the Christian Democratic Party to eliminate his Arena Party from the cabinet. Arena has three ministers in the government.

Tension rose as Arena spokesmen accused the Christian Democrats of preparing a coup. The latter have been accusing Arena of sabotaging the agrarian reform intended to appease leftist guerrillas, and of involvement in murders and kidnappings of Christian Democrats.

President Magana justified his request for the cabinet's resignation as a preliminary move to "reorganize" the administration for more effective action.

EDITORIAL OPPOSES MAGANA REQUEST FOR RESIGNATIONS

PA210158 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Dec 82 p 13

[Editorial: "Only the Assembly Can Change the Government Structure"]

[Text] On Friday 17 December, President Alvaro Magana asked for the resignation of the majority of his cabinet ministers, evidently so that he can decide whether to appoint new ministers next year or to confirm the current ones in their posts. This is a traditional practice both here and in nearly all countries that have a republican governmental system. Under the current circumstances in El Salvador, however, the validity of the request is questionable; it is certainly not within the purview of the executive branch.

Normally, the president of the republic is elected either through direct elections or by the Legislative Assembly, which chooses between the two candidates who obtained a majority in the elections. That is how the country's presidents were legitimately chosen for their positions until the de facto junta was installed in 1979 and Dr Alvaro Magana was appointed by the Assembly in April 1982.

At this point in the republic's life, the Assembly, in both its constituent and its legislative functions, is the only branch of government that received a direct mandate from the people on 28 March, which constitutes one of the highlights in the republic's history. The Assembly is, therefore, the repository of the citizens' trust and the only entity empowered to recommend or order any substantial reorganization of the government that would involve a change in the current balance of forces.

We must not forget that when the current government was created, as a result of foreign intervention in our affairs, we chose a pluralistic plan with the participation of all political parties as a means of salvaging some part of the voters' mandate.

The plan has been successful to a degree, particularly in recovering the workers' confidence in the nation's future to a certain extent. Despite the economic difficulties, a slight recovery has been made in many sectors. Should the citizens, however, get the impression that efforts are being made to concentrate power in one political force or another, this could counter the current initiative and result in the loss of whatever ground may have been gained.

We are far from having solved the basic problems affecting our nation, as evidenced by the continued international publicity campaign against not only our country but all of Central America. Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress unanimously voted a few days ago to stop any liberating movement in Nicaragua, the Radio Marti project was cancelled and there are threats to suspend aid to El Salvador.

Also of great significance is the U.S. labor organizations' opposition to the Reagan plan for the Caribbean, in the belief that the program, according to a statement by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, would increase unemployment in that country. As far as he is concerned, any economic development in Latin America is a menace to the welfare of U.S. workers, as he believes that any such development can come only as a result of low wages.

It would be naive to disregard the pressures being brought to bear on El Salvador in an effort to force further socialism and poverty on us and to destroy what little we have left of our sovereignty and our productive structure. Those groups would like to see the elimination of the 28 March electoral process, doubtlessly thinking that it would make it easier for them to further intervene in our country's internal affairs.

As long as the nation's new constitution is not in effect, any change in the basic composition of the government established last April and ratified in the Apaneca Pact would constitute a virtual coup d'etat against a system that is based on the people's will, as expressed on 28 March. The Assembly must maintain its authority, particularly so that is can alleviate the pressures brought to bear against the other branches of the state by foreign forces, in opposition to the nation's interests.

GARCIA URGES REBELS TO JOIN ELECTION PROCESS

PA210001 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Dec 82 pp 3, 82

[Text] Military units that participated in the search-and-destroy operations on Guazapa hill are returning to their base following a campaign that left 32 extremists dead and 7 captured, while the army reported only 1 casualty, according to armed forces spokesmen.

Meanwhile, referring to military actions in various parts of the country, Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia has announced that these operations will continue as specific tasks undertaken by the armed forces. He said the extremist groups must realize that it is useless to continue to destroy the country through criminal actions when other more reasonable ways to gain power are available.

"Our armed institution is not vengeful, and for this reason I am again appealing to the rebel groups to join the civilized process of elections," he noted. "They may rest assured that their lives will be guaranteed and that they will be given every opportunity to enjoy the welfare that all Salvadorans deserve if they join the efforts to democratize our country," Garcia added.

The defense minister said all Salvadorans acting in unity can achieve their goals, including those who are up in arms today. "There is sufficient room for all social sectors to achieve peace, but this peace should be attained through civilized and Christian paths. Thus, we support the electoral process because it is the best way, as proven by the Salvadoran people on 28 March," he concluded.

TEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COMMUNIQUE

PA190254 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1855 GMT 18 Dec 82

["Before the National Conscience" program: communique issued by the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission in November 1982 in San Salvador -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission [CDHES], aware of the role it must play among the Salvadoran people and in solidarity with the sorrow and suffering of over 3,000 jailed and missing people, 36,000 noncombatant victims of political murder and 500 political prisoners at the La Esperanza (?penitentiary), known as Mariona and the [name indistinct] jail, cannot fail to denounce the actual perpetrators and masterminds of so many violations of the human rights to which we are entitled as human beings.

These actions have been organized by duly (?uniformed) army, National Guard, Treasury Police, National Police and civil defense personnel, as well as by paramilitary bands and death squads. Likewise, we have identified those responsible for the many massacres of our country's Indian population, like the August 1982 massacre in San Benito, San Vicente Department, where they murdered 300 people, including children, women and elderly people, and captured 200, whose whereabouts are unknown; and last month's massacre at Hacienda La Florida, Sensuntepeque jurisdiction, where 7 peasant members of a cooperative were killed without regard for 24 innocent children, who are now totally destitute, and 7 widows, one of which was 8 months pregnant.

We must also denounce the existence of clandestine graveyards like those at El Playon, where the skeletons of over 400 victims of murder were found; the place known as La Perla; the Coastal Road, where 30 skeletons were found; and (La Suerte del Diablo), (Bansumanco) jurisdiction, where 2 bodies that had been dumped there 2 days before their discovery were found, along with 10 skeletons.

We have also proven to the Salvadoran people and the world, through photographs, that there are sites used to dump bodies in such places as (Cayo Mariola), (Loma de San Francisco), the road near Ilopango, the areas around Soyapango, the road to La Libertad port, the northern trunk highway and many others.

Many bodies have also been identified through [words indistinct] photographs at our offices, where we have understood and shared in the sorrow of many mothers. These are genuine events that we Salvadorans experience every day and that cannot continue.

We feel that violence can be solved through peaceful and democratic means, through reasoning and understanding among the parties in conflict and through a sincere desire to search for peace in our country. At this moment, there is the proposal for dialogue that was submitted by the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front]-FMLN to the government authorities.

The CDHES has announced its stand in that respect and once more reiterates its support for dialogue, because it is a peaceful way to find a real path to the peace that the Salvadoran people so earnestly desire. Refusals to engage in dialogue will not help achieve peace. Therefore, the CDHES gives its views and condemns those who are responsible for the captures, disappearances and murders. We demand the following from the incumbent government, the Supreme Court and the defense minister:

1. A stop to the repression [word indistinct], the operation of the unconstitutional decrees and the massive and indiscriminate arrests and killing of humble noncombatants.

2. Concrete and sincere steps to achieve a definite peace.

3. An end to the repression of our institution and the immediate release of (Carlos Eduargo Lugo) and (America Fernanda Perdomo), both of whom are members of our commission.

'TERRORISTS' OCCUPY TWO TOWNS IN MORAZAN

PA202329 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Dec 82 pp 8, 29

[Text] San Miguel — Last Friday, some 1,000 terrorists seized the towns of Guatajiagua and Yamabal in Morazan Department, destroying all of the communications equipment there.

Reports indicated that the subversives arrived at Guatajiagua and attacked the local command post, killing civil defense members Gregorio Martinez, Isidro Villalta and Benito Aquileo Rodriguez, while Jose Angel Martinez, Emilio Henriquez and Joel Garcia, also with the civil defense, were taken prisoner.

In their criminal rampage, the extremists cut off all communications, destroying two public telephones and two others at the local command post. In addition, they stole all of the medicine at the health unit and 10 typewriters from the mayor's office.

After harassing and threatening the civilian population, the terrorists left the area in the afternoon. The report added that the subversives proceeded to the town of Yamabal, a few km east of Guatajiagua, where again they destroyed public service installations. There were no reports of any deaths or of the capture of civilians in that town.

NEWSMAN, WIFE RELEASED BY SECURITY CORPS

PA210348 Paris AFP in Spanish 0258 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Dec (AFP) — Salvadoran newsman and cameraman Luis Diaz and his wife Fidela Nunez, who were "kidnapped" on Sunday by agents dressed as civilians, were released after several hours of questioning, it was learned here today. Diaz, who is currently employed by a Canadian television group and a Dutch network, was taken from his home in the San Jacinto district, south of the Salvadoran capital. Early reports claimed he had been kidnapped.

In view of the reaction in journalistic circles, however, particularly among the foreign correspondents accredited in San Salvador, the security corps released the cameraman on Sunday night. No explanation has yet been given as to the reason for his arrest, but it is rumored that the newsman was accused by his neighbors as a "suspected" leftist, which provoked his "kidnapping," a normal practice in this Central American country.

GUATEMALA

KIDNAPPERS DELIVER MANIFESTO FOR PUBLICATION

PA210023 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2354 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Government spokesman Gonzalo Asturias said this afternoon that the manifesto from the kidnappers of Xiomara Suazo, the Honduran president's daughter, is now in government hands and is ready to be published, the condition set by her captors for her release.

Asturias affirmed that Xiomara Suazo's family has begun negotiations with the Central American and Mexican Governments to arrange the publication of the rebels' communique. The Guatemalan Government, according to Asturias, will publish the manifesto only after Xiomara Suazo has been released.

The spokesman said the guerrillas delivered a letter from Xiomara and a legnthy manifesto to her family at noon today, including evidence that she is alive.

The Guatemalan Government announced last Friday that it would not deal with the kidnappers, but that it would allow Xiomara's family to do so.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ADDRESSES LETTER TO UN, OAS

PA210415 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0220 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Letter sent by Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica to the presidents of the UN Security Council and the OAS Permanent Council on 20 December 1982]

[Text] Mr President:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to bring the following facts to your attention and to that of the honorable council:

In the last week, the Government of Nicaragua has increased its campaign of verbal and physical aggression against the Republic of Honduras. Members of the Sandinist People's Army constantly enter Honduran territory to commit all kinds of crimes against our civilian population, often attacking them with artillery and mortar fire, which is a matter of growing concern to our government. Whenever possible, the Honduran Armed Forces, exercising the right of legitimate defense, have repelled such unjustified attacks and my government has filed the corresponding protests.

Unfortunately, the Government of Nicaragua, rather than responding to my government's conciliatory attitude and to its appeals for prudence and commonsense, has replied in a highly offensive and threatening manner. Proof of this is the text of a protest note sent to the Honduran Foreign Ministry on 16 December by Father Miguel D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan foreign minister, in which he begins by saying that there is a limit to their patience, etc. The unusual tone used in that phrase, which sounds more like an ultimatum than a note, compels my government to denounce to Your Excellency that it constitutes a menace to the peace and security of Central America and, consequently, of the continent.

I once again affirm that the government that legitimately rules the destiny of Honduras upholds two primary objectives: internally, to strengthen the country's democratic institutions, guaranteeing a climate of justice and freedom and complete respect for human rights; and externally, to achieve peace with all of the world's nations, particularly with its neighbors, through absolute respect for the principles of international law, particularly those concerning nonintervention in other states' internal affairs, the free determination of peoples and the peaceful resolution of differences.

As for the abnormal situations that result from the internal conflicts affecting some nations of the area, including Nicaragua, the Honduran Government reiterates that it has always maintained and continues to maintain, with firm determination, the most scrupulous neutrality. Any claim to the contrary is totally unfounded and is only intended to justify actions that are intended to destabilize the democratic government of the Republic of Honduras.

I thank Your Excellency for distributing this note among the delegations of your organization's member nations, and reiterate my highest and most earnest esteem.

[Signed] Edgardo Paz Barnica, foreign minister Department of Information and Press of the Foreign Ministry

[Dated] Tegucigalpa, 20 December 1982

ARMY TAKES STEPS AGAINST SMUGGLING, ARMS TRAFFIC

PA210233 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Dec 82 p 11

[Excerpt] Ocotepeque -- To avoid the flight of foreign exchange resulting from the illegal import of foreign goods, the authorities have established five checkpoints between this city and Santa Rosa de Copan. The checkpoints, which will be manned by duly trained and equipped army troops, are also intended to frustrate all possible arms smuggling from El Salvador and Guatemala to Honduras and vice versa.

NICARAGUA

U.S. SENATE VOTE ON 'DESTABILIZING' FUNDS NOTED

PA202055 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] The Reagan administration's conspiracy to overthrow the Sandinist government of Nicaragua with every available means seems to have reached another landmark on Saturday, when the U.S. Senate eliminated every attempt to place restrictions on the use of military intelligence funds to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

The U.S. Senators voted 56 to 38 in approval of a motion presented by Jesse Helms, the Republican senator from North Carolina, to postpone two amendments that other senators were trying to attach to a federal appropriations bill. One amendment was introduced by Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd and the other by Democratic Senator Daniel Moynihan and Republican Senator John Chafee, all members of the Intelligence Committee. The two amendments involved minor differences that were intended to prevent the direct or indirect use of any funds after January 1983 in support of irregular military forces or paramilitary groups operating in Central America.

Senator Helms opposed both amendments, terming them dangerous measures for U.S. interests in the hemisphere, thus admitting the U.S. investment in destabilizing Central America.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES JANUARY NONALIGNED MEETING

PA201430 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The forthcoming special ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau which will be held in Managua, Nicaragua is the topic of our interview section, in which we present Ernesto Aloma, director of nonaligned countries of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

"A special meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau will be held in Managua 10-14 January exclusively to discuss Latin American and Caribbean problems. This decision to hold a special bureau meeting in Managua to deal exclusively with the Latin American situation is due to the nonaligned countries' great concern over the constant increase of tension in the Caribbean, the South Atlantic and particularly Central America as a result of the U.S. interventionist policy in that region and the application of all kinds of pressures against Nicaragua which threatens to set off a generalized armed conflict in Central America which would seriously affect international peace and security."

Regarding the objectives of this meeting, Aloma said:

"The objectives that Nicaragua seeks with this meeting are to reaffirm once again the political and diplomatic support of the Nonaligned Movement for the Nicaraguan revolution, to prevent an invasion of Nicaragua, to condemn imperialism for the interventionist role it has played throughout history and for making Central America a cause for world tension simply to satisfy its need to reaffirm its hegemonic pretensions, to stress the goal of Latin American unity on the basis of the principle of nonintervention, and to lay the groundwork for a number of steps that we plan to take at the UN level in case an invasion occurs from Honduran territory."

Aloma also valued the support that the Nonaligned Movement has so far given to Nicaragua:

"The Nonaligned Movement has given us great support at the diplomatic level, essentially with regard to the movement's support for our victory at the UN Security Council. As you know, in October we obtained 104 votes in the United Nations. We know that those 104 votes are mainly due to the vote of the members of the Nonaligned Movement, specifically the African, Arab, Latin American and some Asian countries and, naturally, the socialist countries. Therefore, the movement has given us specific and concrete support in the United Nations. I think the movement will reaffirm that support in the Managua meeting, especially at this time when Nicaragua feels it is being attacked by the most reactionary elements of the Honduran Army, which are being used by the Reagan government."

The official also referred to the basic document that will be analyzed during the nonaligned meeting in Managua:

"The basic document that Nicaragua has presented to the movement's members includes the FMLN-Revolutionary Democratic Front proposal for dialogue sent to the Salvadoran regime through the Catholic Church. This is the proposal for dialogue which that liberation movement made to the regime through the church.

Nicaragua, as the host country which has the obligation to draft the basic document, has included that proposal. We will see if the ministers will approve it. We are sure that even though the proposal might not be totally approved, the document will at least include a paragraph in which the ministers will approve the FMLN's desire to hold a dialogue with the Salvadoran regime."

ARCE SAYS FINAL VICTORY WILL TAKE 'YEARS'

PA201642 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Excerpts] On 19 July 1979 we won an overwhelming victory, leaving us in a better position to reward our people's struggle, to eradicate exploitation and to create a stable society in peace and constant progress. Despite this, final victory over counterrevolutionary aggression will take years, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano said yesterday.

Addressing tens of thousands of youths who filled the Ruben Dario University campus, the FSLN National Directorate member said that despite this, no one will win but the Sandinist people. Commander Arce said that a large number of counterrevolutionaries died in combat Saturday in the Aguas Calientes sector, Jinotega Department. Four Sandinist soldiers also fell.

Arce, coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission, charged that approximately 2,000 former Somozist guards camped in Honduras make daily incursions into Nicaraguan territory, supported by the Honduran Army and the U.S. Government. He said there is no indication that U.S. imperialism will give in to the international community's demands for peace in Central America. Commander Arce added: This reminds us that even though we continue our struggle for peace, the revolutionary war has not ended.

In response to his call for increased production, all the youths prepared to sign up to pick coffee beans following the second national meeting of Nicaraguan youth. Here is the call Commander Arce issued yesterday to the builders of our new society:

[Begin Arce recording] The challenge will be difficult. The year 1983, which will be even more difficult than 1982, is only one part of the road we must travel, but we must work with the delight of artists. The young have a field where they can forge their future. Today, in the name of our peasants, small and medium-sized-field producers, our people and the FSLN National Directorate, we ask you to organize tens of brigades for picking coffee beans after this meeting concludes so that we may capitalize on the foreign currency obtained from coffee sales and face the 1983 educational challenges. [applause] [end recording]

CUBANS, SOVIETS, BULGARIANS ATTEND TELCOR EVENT

PA201810 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Excerpts] With thousands of Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] workers participating, the second national telecommunications assembly took place Saturday at the Cesar Augusto Silva Conventions Center.

The event, which was presided over by Tomas Borge, interior minister and commander of the revolution; Enrique Schmidt, deputy commander and minister director of Telcor; and other Telcor officials, was held in recognition of the work carried out by the workers during 1982.

Attending the event were Oscar Gonzalez, Cuban vice minister for communications [as heard], and the Soviet and Bulgarian ambassadors, whose countries collaborate in various aspects of the development projects for the Nicaraguan communities.

OPPOSITION LEADERS HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE

PA180452 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 17 Dec 82

[News conference held by the "Revolutionary Directorate" of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, made up of Alfonso Robelo Callejas of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement; Commander Eden Pastora Gomez of the Sandino Revolutionary Front; Brooklyn Rivera of the Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity; and Fernando Chamorro, Jr, representing Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro of the Nicaraguan Democratic Union; in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 16 December -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Pastora] Before beginning, we want to thank you on behalf of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Arde, for your presence so that you can convey to the people of Nicaragua, to the brother people of Costa Rica and to the peoples of the world our ideas and feelings in regard to events in Central America and especially in Nicaragua.

In our statement of 15 April, which was a profoundly moral criticism against the FSLN National Directorate, and to which we have not received a mature response... [changes thought] Since 15 April, the National Directorate has responded to us with the Somozist weapons of lies and slander. We therefore address the Nicaraguan people, the Costa Rican brothers and the democratic peoples and governments of the world, with our hearts in our hands, to let them know Arde's position.

On that occasion our statements were distorted by the international press, which depicted us as anticommunist, anti-Cuban and, even worse, as counterrevolutionaries and anti-Sandinists. The truth is that we are not anti anything, except anti-totalitarian. We are revolutionaries who love our people, peace, democracy and social justice.

We wish to address the people of Nicaragua and the democratic peoples and governments of the world. Arde's statements, based on a responsible and coherent program within the framework of the Nicaraguan revolution, have always had the common denominator of supporting every proposal entailing the possibility of establishing peace and stability in Nicaragua and Central America. It has also been our feeling and conviction that up to now there has been no truth or intention on the part of the FSLN Directorate to find the real and popular national solutions demanded by the people in the face of the present dilemma.

Almost 4 years after the revolution, the continuous political, economic and social deterioration is growing even worse, inevitably driving us further away from the equilibrium and sobriety that allowed us to achieve victory. The danger of another war, with its attendant toll of bloodshed, sorrow and destruction, is at our doorstep.

The achievement and consolidation of peace in Nicaragua is a necessary step toward stability in Central America. There will be no peace in Central America as long as there is no peace in Nicaragua.

Unfortunately, the peace initiatives that have been submitted by our sister nations of Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras and Venezuela, as well as France, have not been effective enough to bring the desired peace and stability. The best intentions at the national [as heard] level have not been strong enough to become positive factors leading toward viable solutions.

We welcome with seriousness and enthusiasm the responsible and timely proposal that was recently submitted by Social Democrat Olof Palme, the Swedish prime minister, in which he clearly said that the best way to solve the current Central American conflicts is through a political solution, which must be immediate and free of prior conditions.

We must not forget, however, the Nicaraguan people's historical repudiation of anything meaning pacts or compromises to obtain power or share power, which has forced them to leave thousands of dead in the countryside and the cities.

Anything that is not done before that people and with their full participation cannot be viable or possible. That is why, as Nicaraguans, defenders of our sovereignty, true democrats and revolutionaries, we feel it is our unpostponable duty to exhaust all paths toward peace without giving up principles.

Consistent with this, we view the electoral process as the only viable solution to avoid violence. This means an electoral process that has the necessary guarantees and that can be verified so that for the first time in their history our people can elect their leaders freely. Let the vote be the means to express the will of this people who defeated the bloodiest dictatorship in America. At this advanced stage, they already know it is the most effective way to achieve peace, democracy, stability and progress in their revolution.

We must recall that the present regime has an unavoidable commitment to the Nicaraguan revolution and to the Latin American peoples. It was signed before 19 July 1979. Its main point included free elections as soon as possible. For this reason, the people temporarily gave power to the Government of National Reconstruction that was initially formed. This commitment was not fulfilled. Time is crucial at this juncture and in carrying out this revolutionary duty. The homeland of Sandino and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro is being quickly destroyed. The present situation increases the dialectics of the extremes, creating conflicts that are unprecedented in the country's history. It is a revolutionary duty to get the country out of the terrible crisis it is currently experiencing. Therefore, it is irresponsible and untimely to speak of elections for 1985. For this reason, the electoral process must be started as soon as possible, and elections for members of a constituent assembly must be held no later than June 1983. These must be (?controlled) and honest elections in which the people's true will is expressed. These elections must include the participation of the country's political sectors that don't want to return to the past or to totalitarianism. The political organizations would have at least 4 months to conduct their political campaigns with the guarantees of a regulating committee for the electoral process and with all civic freedoms, particularly unrestricted freedom of the press.

We are convinced that peace and stability in the region can only be achieved when each country decides to develop national and viable political solutions in line with its own characteristics. This is how we understand this, and this is how the truly democratic countries and organizations that are genuinely interested in peace in Central America must understand it.

Free elections are tantamount to peace, democracy, stability and revolution.

Long live Nicaragua! Long live Central America! Long live the revolution!

Arde Revolutionary Directorate

[Signed] Eden Pastora, Brooklyn Rivera, Fernando Chamorro and Alfonso Robelo [applause]

We will now answer any questions or clear up any doubts you have.

[Question indistinct]

[Robelo] I want to answer your question on behalf of the Revolutionary Directorate. We understand that the conditions existing in Nicaragua at this time are not the conditions for truly free elections. However, with this call we are issuing, we are giving the leaders of Nicaragua, those who are in power in our country, a chance to open the path to avoid war if they are patriotic enough. We are asking them to open the path for peace, which is what we seek.

[Question] Mr Robelo, is this call an ultimatum?

[Robelo] This call is an opening on our side so that the Nicaraguan people will not suffer more destruction and misgovernment. It is being made so that the Nicaraguan people will no longer suffer the horrors of war, and for them to have the right to elect their leaders. We will not be deceived. We will continue to fight to lead Nicaragua to a true democracy.

[Question indistinct]

[Pastora] Since there is no evidence of that right now, from now until June we will review our agenda and will talk with all the political and social sectors of Nicaragua, and the people will have the last word. We will only be doing what the people say at that time.

[Unidentified speaker] I'd like to complete the commander's answer. June is not a deadline; the deadline is before that. I don't want our friends the reporters to leave with the idea that June is a deadline. No, it is much sooner than that. The Nicaraguan situation does not allow for long waits or long delays. We must demand immediate answers. Nicaraguans are being killed every day. Poverty is being spread in Nicaragua every day. We can't go on waiting. We need immediate answers, and we are demanding them. June is a date that seems logical and reasonable for holding elections. In fact, we are talking of a time previous to that in which to hold a campaign with full guarantees. I just didn't want to leave the wrong impression.

[Question indistinct]

[Pastora] Look, two things occurred on that 15 April. One was the statement that was issued that was primarily a moral criticism of the moral and political deviations of the National Directorate.

The other was the interview in which I admit that in one part I got worked up, and if I remember well I said that the people were going to get the National Directorate out of their mansions with bullets, and that I was going to be leading the people. On this occasion we want to invite the Directorate to reflect, and we in Arde want to give them one more opportunity to find peace and peaceful solutions that will not make us accept the challenge to violence that the National Directorate is daily making to us.

[Robelo] I want to again add to this so that our views will be clearly understood. It is important that you understand that we are not going to give up. We will continue to struggle, and if all the doors are closed to us we will have to analyze what we have to do. We are not going to give up, but at this time we are giving the FSLN National Directorate an opportunity to change and to show that it still has some patriotism.

[Question indistinct]

[Pastora] Well, our opinion and our desire is to once again clarify this to the world because there is still some romanticism. In Europe it is still thought that a democratic Sandinist revolution is being carried out in Nicaragua. We want once again to show those gentlemen that we are interested in peace, that we want political solutions, and that we don't want to accept the challenge to violence with their Soviet tanks, cannons and all their Soviet weapons. We do not want to accept that challenge to violence.

[Question indistinct]

[Pastora] Look, all those weapons in the hands of the people would serve to overthrow the National Directorate if the Somozist guardsmen were not in northern Nicaragua. That is the problem we have. The Nicaraguan people are between the two extremes, between the totalitarianism of the past... [changes thought] We face that threat. The guardsmen are killing us, they are killing peasants and students. There is a general staff of former guardsmen, of colonels, captains and lieutenants, who are the same ones who in the past used to kill our youths, peasants and workers. They are daily threatening us with a return of the past. On the other side, there is the current totalitarian Stalinist-style extreme left wing. In Nicaragua, Marx is no longer a problem, or perhaps has never been one. The problem is Stalin. In view of this situation the Soviet tanks and cannons pass almost unnoticed by the Nicaraguan people. We are presenting a third formula. That is what we are doing.

[Question indistinct]

[Robelo] If you analyze Arde's proposal, it is precisely to open a possibility so there will not be a war. What we are pointing out here is peace. What we are clearly pointing out is the way to reach peace. This is an opening toward peace. Let it be clear, however, that this is not an opening to deceit. We are not going to accept deceit. We have already suffered enough deceit in the past. It is a real and true opening toward a civilized solution in Nicaragua. Such a solution would completely prevent any armed confrontation in Nicaragua. This opening is offered because we are seeking a peaceful solution. In Nicaragua we are experiencing a vicious circle of war, death and destruction. It is terrible. The totalitarians of the Nicaraguan Government and the Directorate justify themselves with the presence of members of the FDN [Democratic Armed Forces] in northern Nicaragua who are carrying out armed actions; and, vice versa, the totalitarianism of the National Directorate justifies the presence of the others.

Therefore, if a possibility such as the one we have proposed is presented, the logical thing is that we are providing an opportunity to break that circle of death and destruction. Do I make myself clear? I insist -- and this is very important -- that if we do not find a reply we are going to look for one through all the other means. What is important is that we will not yield.

[Unidentified speaker] I want to add something to Robelo's explanation. Some international sectors have proposed the search for a peaceful solution to the situation of Nicaragua and the whole Central American region through a dialogue among governments, be it between the Nicaraguan and Honduran Governments or through some international agreement between the United States and Nicaragua. We agree with that peace initiative proposed by some governments. Nevertheless, we believe that the effective instrument to find a solution for peace and stability in Central America must be the domestic peace of Nicaragua. That is why we proposed this Arde initiative, and we believe it is a useful instrument to pacify Central America. With this I have tried to answer the companero's question.

Our proposal aims at ending the war developing in the north. The war will become generalized very soon if there is no responsible commitment from the FSLN government. As Nicaraguans and patriots, we are showing the world an effective, feasible and useful mechanism. On this basis, we want some democratic governments to support this proposal from Arde. It is a specific proposal to prevent the situation that is developing. If there is no reply, then before history, we, as Nicaraguans, blame the situation on the totalitarians who misgovern Nicaragua. As patriots, we are going to continue to struggle to the end for the liberation of Nicaragua and the pacification of Central America as well as for the democracy that Central America is demanding.

[Pastora] I want to add a bit more. What is causing the war in Nicaragua? The war in Nicaragua is caused by the fact that there are no free elections. The war in Nicaragua is caused by the fact that the popular sectors do not participate in the national decisions. The war in Nicaragua is caused by the country's impoverishment. Bad economic planning has taken us from exporting $900 million worth of products to $350 million. What causes the war in Nicaragua? The lack of freedoms, including press freedom, freedom of expression, freedom to be duly informed. What causes the war in Nicaragua? The alignment, the treason. What causes the war in Nicaragua? In a word, Stalinism. As long as that situation exists, there will be no peace in Nicaragua. As long as there is no peace in Nicaragua, there will be no peace in Central America.

[Question indistinct]

[Pastora] It is a complex situation. That is why we say that Nicaragua finds itself caught in the vicious circle of death. Between the extreme right and left, there is a third alternative: Arde. We call on the peoples and governments of the world to (?understand) this triangle, to see this. We call on the Socialist International, as Social Democrats who are the alternative between the two extremes. We call on Social Democracy to stop giving the Directorate a blank check and to stop giving it unconditional support just because Social Democracy fears that it will be called Reagan's echo. No, here we have to dot the I's and understand the solution for Nicaragua, which is complex. We are working toward this end. As long as this is not achieved, there will be no peace in Nicaragua.

[Question indistinct]

[Robelo] Brooklyn, why don't you answer that?

[Rivera] Regarding the issue of the Indians in Nicaragua, they are the people who are suffering the most at the hands of the FSLN National Directorate. The National Directorates's strategic and ideological manipulation of these Indians is being increased in an effort to try to eliminate those who, as indigenous peoples, have seriously resisted the totalitarian attempt to control them and to incorporate them into the totalitarian ideology and way of life that the government is trying to implement. Therefore, within the framework of this effort, the government has been forcibly evacuating the Indians from their communities in the border areas. However, the government is facing serious resistance from these communities.

In December 1981, at around this time, all 60 communities of the Coco River border area were evacuated by the military forces. The communities were destroyed and left in ashes. Approximately 10,000 people were evacuated and taken to camps created by the government and called Tasba Pri. And now, during the same month of this year a few communities that remained in (Los Raudales), in Jinotega, near the Bocay and [name indistinct] Rivers, are being evacuated. The government had approximately 15 communities left there, with some 10,000 Indians, including Miskitos and Sumus. We, who know the territory and know how the evacuation was conducted, know that many attacks are being committed against the people who are being evacuated. The military officers who are in charge of the plan carry it out as they please. They abuse these people in many ways, including murdering old people and children who can't walk in these transfers. For example, in December, military officers killed the old people who couldn't walk for many days. They also killed pregnant women and children.

We do not believe that this accident, what was presented as an accident, was in fact an accident. We seriously suspect that it wasn't. We believe it was an indiscriminate killing that occurred on the ground. Subsequently, with a complete lack of respect for the memory of these children, the FSLN government presented it as an accident in order to seek justifications and to use it for political propaganda.

We seriously doubt it was an accident. Why? For the following reasons: 1) The government had never previously reported that the Indians were being moved. Nobody knew that the (Los Raudales) people were being transferred. In order to justify this transfer, they had to fabricate this accident. 2) We don't see how an M-18 Soviet helicopter can carry 92 people, most of them children, when that helicopter's capacity, according to experts, is 30 people. 3) It is very strange that none of the crew was killed; only the Indian women and children were burned. 4) It is very suspicious that they have not shown these alleged bodies to reporters or to anyone else. They were buried right away, and only a picture of an alleged helicopter accident was published. The relatives of these children -- their names are not known -- [words indistinct]. Knowing the criminal attitude of the commanders, everything seems to indicate that there is a strategic operation underway. We blame the totalitarian FSLN Directorate for these crimes. We publicly ask the human rights commissions to thoroughly investigate this crime against our brothers. Our people are enraged. The process that the FSLN Government is carrying out to eliminate the Indians is being implemented in a variety of circumstances. Please, ladies and gentlemen of the press, because of the pain we feel for our brothers, we want to ask you to support us so that this investigation will be made to explain to the world who is truly responsible for these crimes.

The confrontations that have occurred on the Atlantic coast have been strictly between the Indians and the Sandinist military officers in the defense of the Indians' lives and rights. So far, the people have had no other alternative. The government has only offered bullets, death, repression and destruction. Consequently, the people are resisting. This is not an offensive war, but a defensive one. They are defending their lives. So far, the way we are handling this is to keep it practically under control because we believe that it must be a nationwide war and not just in a region. There is no reason to sacrifice a single area; it is like telling them to commit suicide. The war must be waged responsibly in every corner of Nicaragua if that is what the people want and if circumstances so dictate. If all these proposals fail, the only alternative the people have is to sacrifice themselves in order to achieve peace.

[Question indistinct]

[Robelo] There are absolutely no ties between us and the FDN, absolutely none.

[Question indistinct]

[Robelo] As Brooklyn said, one has to defend oneself when attacked. Therefore, he was very clear in saying that this is no war of aggression; it is a war to defend our lives in view of the army's attitude.

[Question indistinct]

[Pastora] The extremes are alike in the way they attack those who don't believe as they do. Both the extreme right wing and the extreme left wing have a weapon that we don't know how to use: slander, lies and misinformation. Humberto Ortega said that we attacked Cardenas. He specifically said that I attacked Cardenas. At that time I was in Panama. First, Eden was in Panama. Second, we don't have armed men. All we have is thinking men with hearts full of love and patriotism who are searching for peace. (Ferreto) [not further identified] agrees with Humberto on this. I speak for Nicaragua. Let the Costa Ricans speak for Costa Rica. It is a matter of Costa Rican domestic policy. You reporters have your own ways to judge. Different ways of judgment can lead to objective conclusions. Therefore, it is all in your hands. This is in regard to Costa Rica. Regarding Nicaragua, I say that Humberto is a liar. He is very skilled in maneuvering, and he is a demagogue. I know him very well. He knows perfectly well that we didn't attack Cardenas. He knows perfectly well that the Cardenas incident was an attack by the FSLN against itself to manipulate a political situation. He knows we had nothing to do with that.

[Robelo] With this answer we are closing this news conference with you dear journalists. We thank you for coming and truly hope that you will report our words faithfully. They are words of peace for Nicaragua, and since they are words of peace for Nicaragua, they are also words of peace for Central America. They are also the words of revolutionaries who will firmly fight to rescue our Nicaraguan revolution.

CASTRO ON COLOMBIA, CENTRAL AMERICA, U.S.

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[Excerpts] [Reporter] Tell us Yamit, [reporter Yamit Amat] did Castro have an opportunity to express any ideas or opinions regarding the most recent Colombian presidents in the talk he had with you [in the VIP lounge] at Havana airport?

[Yamit Amat] Yes, Castro's opinion about former President Lopez is clearly mentioned in the interview. He considers him a serious man, with whom agreements could be reached to maintain relations. He is not very fond of President Turbay, and he does not hide it. Castro holds him responsible for the rupture of relations. He has great interest in President Betancur, whom he considers a progressive man.

Former President Pastrana almost simultaneously met with Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, and the meeting was held on good terms.

Castro has a very good opinion of Lopez, a very bad one of Turbay, and good one of Betancur.

[Reporter] I imagine Fidel Castro surrounded by 300 bodyguards. What protection does he have, and who accompanies him?

[Yamit] The people of Havana. During the interview, Castro had with him Manuel Pineiro Losada, who is known in Latin America as Barbaroja [Red Beard], the man who directs Cuba's foreign policy toward the continent. He was also accompanied by Luis Suarez, the man in charge of managing Colombian information affairs. The information that Mr Suarez has on Colombia is as precise as that of any journalist now active in Colombia. Gabriel Garcia Marquez was also there, as well as the two journalists who prepared this report, (Ampara Perez) and I.

[Reporter] Here is one question that our listeners must surely be asking themselves. There has been a scandal in Colombia that allegedly ties the Cuban Government to smuggling arms to the guerrilla movements in exchange for drugs. Was this discussed?

[Yamit Amat] Yes, but the Cuban president suggested that we direct the question to Fernando Ravelo, who was the Cuban ambassador to Colombia, who is the principal person who has been accused.

[Reporter] We did just that. The replies of Ambassador -- or former Ambassador -- Ravelo to the charges lodged against him will be broadcast next Monday between 0600 and 0900.

How does the Cuban president feel about the fact that Garcia Marquez has won the Nobel literature prize? How can this prize, this distinction, this recognition, benefit Latin America?

[Yamit Amat] When the president began to speak, we interrupted him and asked his permission to record his words. He accepted, and before the recorder was on, he continued speaking, as he has great interest in the subject. At this time, the recording begins, and the Cuban president is talking about Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

[Begin Castro recording — in progress] I was sure that he was going to be given the Nobel Prize, and I told him so more than once, believe me. I kept asking him: When are they going to give you the Nobel Prize? When? In my opinion, this was a matter of elemental justice, a just thing to do. And I did not believe so because of my personal friendship with him; it was not a matter of subjective admiration for his literary work.

I am a personal admirer of Gabriel's work, and I read his books often. I think that his novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude" is one of the greatest novels of all time. I can even compare it to Cervantes' novels; it reminded me of Cervantes' novel "Don Quixote." So I think that this book will be read many years from now. It is not only important for our contemporary world; it ranks in importance and value -- from my point of view -- with the literature of all times. And I repeat, this is not an opinion based on my friendship. To be sincere and close friends one does not have to lie, so this is my opinion.

Then, would you believe...[changes thought] perhaps Gabo [referring to Gabriel Garcia Marquez] was surprised, but I was not surprised when I heard the news; I thought it was something that was to be expected. I immediately sent him a telegram telling him that justice had been done at last. It was a very wise decision. However, even if he had not received the Nobel literature prize, in my opinion, and in the opinion of many Cubans, and possibly for millions of persons in the world, his books are great pieces of literature which do not require the recognition of the Nobel Prize. It is true that the Nobel Prize has become a seal of acceptance, but Gabriel's works did not need this seal of acceptance.

I understand that the Colombian people celebrated when they heard the news. I think people celebrated everywhere, perhaps not as noisily as in Cartagena and nearby places, but it was a spiritual celebration, so to speak, due to the fact that it expressed recognition. So, they really gave the seal to literary work that did not need it. [end recording]

[Reporter] (Amparo Perez) very cleverly and intelligently opened the path for the interview. She asked the following question that has to do with Garcia Marquez, but she asked it in such a way that she placed President Castro in an area that clearly related to his political opinions.

We wondered if the president would be willing to answer another question and, basically, if he would answer a question that implied an opinion from the president on political matters. If the question had political content, how would he react? The question, and his answer, were the following:

[Begin recording] [Question] Aside from this [words indistinct] Latin America that our winner of the Nobel literature prize is also the Nobel peace prize winner?

[Answer] You are quite right. [Words indistinct] from the Latin American point of view, this is very important. I think that it helps call great attention to Latin America. He has put Latin America on the frontline, let's say. This is why Gabriel's novel is not just a Colombian novel; it is a Latin American novel. I think it is also a novel for our language, for everybody who speaks Spanish. [end recording]

[Reporter] The second question was clearer, with a clear political hue:

[Begin recording] [Question] Commander, Colombia has a bad image abroad. Generally speaking, there is bad talk about Colombia abroad. Do you think that the honor received by Gabriel Garcia Marquez will serve to counteract the bad image that our country has abroad?

[Answer] Well, I think that he brings prestige with the prize because he is a son of Colombia. I also think that the prize is rather a recognition of the individuality of Gabriel, of Gabriel's talent as a writer, not of Colombia. I also think that factors that could be adverse to a good image of Colombia cannot be dismissed with the great success of a Colombian writing.

I don't know to what kind of bad propaganda you refer, but if you are referring to bad propaganda because there is poverty, poor health, illiteracy, great social inequalities — to cite a few examples only — I think that these problems have to be solved with social and political changes. If you are referring to a bad image resulting from the continuous state of siege that has existed there for many years, then I would tell you that situation can't be solved with the prize. I think that the prize can help solve the situation somewhat because of Gabriel's prestige, influence and progressive position. I think this helps overcome the problem. There may be many causes for a bad image. Do you understand?

[Question] Yes.

[Answer] There are many causes. If you are referring to political, social and economic causes, these have to be solved with changes, with reforms, and in this regard you know that our friendship with Gabriel results not only from our recognition of his great capacity as a great novel writer, but also from his political and progressive positions.

[Question] Commander, that bad reputation of ours....

[Answer] You also have a good reputation. You have the emeralds of Colombia; Colombia's coffee is very good; the landscape is very beautiful; Colombia's wars of independence are historic and glorious pages of prestige for the country. There is everything, as everywhere.

[Question] Could the bad reputation result in the frustration of President Belisario Betancur's interest in becoming part of the Nonaligned Movement? What do you think?

[Answer] You are asking me a very difficult question. I cannot answer that personally. On this type of matter, we adopt collective-type decisions. What I can tell you is that I hope for circumstances to exist that would facilitate an honorable entrance of Colombia into the Nonaligned Movement.

[Question] But it would be good for Colombia to apply anyhow?

[Answer] I think the Nonaligned Movement is a growing force in today's world. If there is to be a stand in line with the nonaligned position -- which is progressive, anticolonialist and anti-imperialist -- all those who want to join the Nonaligned Movement to work in favor of these objectives will always be welcomed.

[Question] Commander, a few moments ago we spoke about the efforts Gabriel is making in favor of peace in Central America. Is peace in Central America still far away?

[Answer] Peace in Central America is as remote as the United States wants it to be. There are objective possibilities for securing peace in Central America. The Salvadoran revolutionaries are willing to talk and find a political solution to the Salvadoran problem. The Nicaraguans have a policy of good relations with all their neighbors. But it is evident that the United States does not want this. It has decided on military solutions, on crushing the revolutionary movement and destroying it; and I can assure you that this is absolutely impossible. The guerrilla movement in El Salvador is so strong, so vigorous and has so much experience that it will never be defeated.

And I think that the revolutionary government of Nicaragua will never be defeated, either, even if the United States continues a destabilization policy against Nicaragua, a policy that is already well known and denounced by NEWSWEEK, THE NEW YORK TIMES and many others. Even considering such well-known data as the $19 million given to the CIA to help the counterrevolution in Nicaragua, I still think that not even with all this can the Sandinist government be overthrown. But what use is this?

It serves to prolong the Central American struggle, to prolong the sacrifices of the people and to prevent a peaceful solution. There can be peace, but this depends not on the revolutionaries but on the policies of the United States, which wants to impose a forced solution.

[Question] Mr President, why is Central America important to the powers and to the entire world?

[Answer] I don't know what powers you are talking about. Central America has been very important for one power only: the United States. The Soviet Union has had absolutely nothing to do with the Nicaraguan revolution, nothing to do with the revolution in El Salvador and nothing to do with the revolutionary struggle in Guatemala -- absolutely nothing to do with that. All talk about that is myth, invention and U.S. propaganda to present the Central American problem as an East-West conflict. But that is false. I am stating this; I know this; I categorically affirm this: The other power, the Soviet Union, has had nothing to do with Central American problems, and talk about that is just a result of U.S. propaganda.

[Question] Following the Malvinas conflict, President Betancur proposed a meeting of presidents in Cartagena to discuss the deterioration suffered by the inter-American system. Would you go to that meeting? And how do you see the inter-American system?

[Answer] I think it looks really bad. But this is not a recent thing; it's been like that for the last 20 years -- ever since the inter-American system was created as an instrument of U.S. policy; ever since it became, as Raul Roa once put it, a Yankee ministry of the colonies; ever since it endorsed and sanctified every U.S. aggression in this hemisphere. Can we forget that the system endorsed and sanctified the CIA intervention in Guatemala during the Arbenz administration? Can we forget that the system endorsed and sanctified all the crimes committed and aggressions staged by the United States against Cuba during the last 20 years? Can we forget that the system set forth and sanctified the U.S. intervention in Santo Domingo? That is a completely unsuccessful and discredited system.

I applaud those who after the Malvinas -- because the Malvinas were the objective evidence of this entire reality -- have proposed the creation of an organization that understands the Latin American peoples' interests. We lack such an organization. In recent times, several organizations have been created. Among these, SELA is gaining increasing prestige, just to mention one such organization that represents Latin American interests. I applaud this. I do not have an answer yet; I still don't know how all this can be done, but it seems to me that those who have mentioned the need to create an organization that understands our peoples and their interests, an organization that understands the Latin American peoples, have voiced a wise idea. I (?agree with that).

As for the Cartagena meeting, I think that is a good initiative, which no doubt will be viewed with sympathy in our hemisphere and in Cuba, which is part of this hemisphere.

[Question] Would you attend this meeting?

[Answer] Your question about whether I'd go is very premature, since the conference must still be convoked and approved and the commissions have not yet been created. You are asking me to cross a bridge before reaching the river. Let's wait until the necessary conditions have been created, until the conference has been convoked, until we reach the bridge, and then I will be able to tell you what I will do. All I can say at this point is that I view Colombia's willingness to invite Cuba with satisfaction and that I view the meeting with sympathy. This is what I can tell you at this point.

[Question] Commander, if anybody asked me what has impressed me the most about Cuba -- a country I had never visited before -- I would say the hospital that has just been dedicated. It is impossible to find a work of such magnitude in any other underdeveloped country. How was this accomplished? How was it done?

[Answer] Well, we Cubans build many hospitals, and very good ones, too, particularly in the needier parts of the country, such as Victoria de las Tunas, Granma Province, and Guantanamo Province. We are building similar hospitals in Nuevitas; in Moron, in the central part of the island; and in Sancti Spiritus. We have also dedicated a large hospital in Cienfuegos. Now, this hospital has certain special characteristics. It is really of a higher quality. The foundations of the building were laid prior to the revolution. The national bank was to be constructed there. That government did not leave a single cent here in the country, yet it was building a big bank. Who knows what money they were going to deposit there? The revolution went on building the bank for several years so that the workers would not lose their jobs. While constructing the 16th floor, more or less, we decided to turn that building into a hospital, since we needed a hospital more than a bank. So I asked the engineers and architects to adapt that project, which included large vaults downstairs, and make it into a hospital. We chose a good brigade and designed a good hospital, one that would have certain characteristics. It would be a hospital for medical improvement [perfeccionamiento medico], something like a teaching hospital, which would serve as point of reference for other hospitals.

We worked on this for years because it was a costly project, since the construction material is special and includes marble, tiles and special slabs made of Jaimanita rocks. We undertook this task gradually, since we did not want to sacrifice quality even though we did not have all the necessary money. We gradually bought the equipment. We went on building the hospital gradually until we completed it, and it is currently [words indistinct] in full operation in a year, since it has just been dedicated. In my opinion, it is one of the best hospitals in the world.

In addition, the medical personnel that will direct each of its services were very carefully selected. The directors of this hospital were chosen from among the country's most prominent professionals. It is also a very humane hospital. Its material conditions are very good. The entire hospital is air conditioned. In addition, it has no wards; instead, it has individual rooms. It has rooms with one bed, two beds, three beds and four beds as the maximum. You know how unpleasant it is to arrive in a hospital and find a ward with 50 beds.

Our revolution has accorded special attention to public health, very special attention. We already have intensive therapy units in all of the country's pediatric hospitals. This is a guarantee for the family. We have worked hard; we have continued working and will go on working even more. Over the next few years, we plan to build four pediatric hospitals of a quality similar to this one. We want to turn the country into what might be described as a medical power, since we will be the country with the most experience in the field of tropical medicine. Today we have doctors in 26 countries; we have 1,400 doctors working abroad. We are currently developing our own research center. We have acted in accordance with the principle that the most humane and valuable state activity on behalf of the people is in the area of public health, and we have devoted the largest amount of resources possible to this field. Even in the midst of the currently difficult economic situation -- which derives from the international economic crisis and the low sugar prices -- we sacrifice many things, but we maintain public health and education as our priorities.

How have we been able to do this? Well, we try to administer money wisely. We are not a consumer society; we are not a society characterized by cars, where 2 million of them consume gasoline. We buy a limited number of cars to satisfy the people's needs, the technicians' needs in general, but we save; we don't spend our money on luxury items. Resources, therefore, are invested in essential things like this hospital.

In any event, I would like to thank you. Your appreciation of the fact that this is a great work, a great hospital, encourages me greatly. I can assure you that I have never seen a hotel that looks better than this hospital -- prettier, better organized or more functional. This hospital is a marvel. Of course, not only Cubans can come to this hospital, but also our friends, for we sometimes attend to friends from other countries -- from Peru, Central America and other parts of the world. Let's hope you never need it, but should you ever need our medical services, our Colombian friends can count on them.

[Question] Mr President, I have a short question. A while back you mentioned economic difficulties. Not only Cuba, but the entire hemisphere has economic problems. Do you think this situation destabilizes governments?

[Answer] I think so. All difficult economic situations destabilize governments, whether leftist or rightist. In Latin America today, we have a terrible economic crisis with a debt totaling $300 billion. Of course, all this creates political instability. That is axiomatic.

[Question] My last question, Commander. Does Cuba want to maintain relations with Colombia?

[Answer] Cuba wants relations with Colombia under conditions of respect and dignity. These relations existed in the past, and they were advancing perfectly until the Turbay Ayala administration staged an action against Cuba in collusion with the U.S. Government to keep the Cuban Government from obtaining a Security Council seat. You may remember the sad story of the 157 ballots in which Cuba obtained between 80 and 100 votes and Colombia obtained between 50 and 60. However, incited by the United States and following its instructions, Colombia blocked the voting and repeatedly refused to withdraw from it. We felt that was a truly unworthy action, an aggressive action against our country. It was that factor -- and I tell you this categorically -- that spoiled the relations that were until that point developing between Colombia and Cuba amid great respect. Relations with Colombia will always be welcomed under conditions of respect and dignity. However, I think it is still premature to talk about this. We must await further developments and the creation of conditions favorable to the reestablishment of those relations under conditions marked by respect and dignity. This is all I can tell you at this point. [end recording]

[Yamit Amat] At this point, President Castro stood up. He was worried that our plane might be delayed on his account. Well, what is your opinion?

[Reporter] He was very firm when discussing the relations between Colombia and Cuba.

[Yamil Amat] Yes, he has very clear ideas, as you have noticed.

[Reporter] A change in the tone of his voice was immediately noticeable.

[Yamil Amat] Yes, and his assertion that the subject is premature is important. It would seem that the Cuban president and Cubans in general are interested in maintaining commercial relations, and from there establishing diplomatic relations later.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS PZPR MEMBER RAKOWSKI

FL201350 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Politburo and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met in the Palace of the Revolution with Mieczyslaw Rakowski, PZPR member and deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, who is visiting our country. During the meeting which was held in a friendly atmosphere, Rakowski conveyed to Fidel a warm message from Wojciech Jaruzelski, PZPR first secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Castro and Rakowski discussed various matters concerning the relations between the two countries in addition to aspects related to the current international situation. During his meeting with Castro, Rakowski was accompanied by Stanislaw Jarzębek, Polish ambassador to Cuba.

CASTRO SEES FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

PA210342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0249 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] Havana, 20 Dec (EFE) -- Cuban President Fidel Castro held a "very long" meeting with Bernard Dorin, the French Foreign Ministry's director for Latin America, who left this island today after a 3-day visit. Dorin also met with Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez; Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca; Culture Minister Armando Hart; Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; and other Cuban officials.

Although no communique was issued on these meetings, reliable sources noted that "both sides expressed a desire to search for peace and for negotiations in solving Central America's problems." The same sources reported that France, for example, is opposed to the "isolation of Nicaragua, which would lead nowhere and is, after all, a very dangerous move in terms of peace in the region."

It was also made clear that the support for a dialogue between the parties that are in conflict in El Salvador, proposed in the French-Mexican communique of a few months ago, still stands and that "if there is more silence now it is only to give the countries that are directly involved the opportunity to talk."

Therefore, the possibility that France "will reactivate" its diplomatic representation in El Salvador, which is currently without a political charge d'affaires, does not mean, according to these French sources, "that there has been a change in position. It reflects the belief that it is always of interest to have an on site observer." France's position toward Central America ever since Francois Mitterrand became president has been described as positive in Cuba, which has expressed support for the French-Mexican promotion of dialogue on various occasions.

FIDEL CASTRO REPLIES TO TSEDENBAL PROPOSAL

OW191111 Ulaanbaatar Montsame in English 1730 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, December 18 (MONTSAME) -- Y. Tsedenbal, general secretary of the M.P.R.P. Central Committee, chairman of the M.P.R. Great Peoples Hural, received a return message from Fidel Castro whom he sent earlier a message concerning the M.P.R.S. proposal to conclude a convention on mutual non-aggression and non-use of force in relations between the states of Asia and the Pacific. Fidel Castro, chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, was addressed to as the chairman of the Non-aligned Movement.

Fidel Castro's message says that he shares the great anxiety of Mongolian Government and the people over the growing number of hotbeds of tension and conflicts in Asia and the Pacific which destabilize the situation in the region and highly assesses the M.P.R. proposal.

The message also confirms Fidel Castro's readiness to support all Mongolia's activities aimed at the implementation of this initiative.

RAUL CASTRO PRESENTS AWARD TO USSR ACADEMY

FL201932 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Live relay from Moscow by Sergio Escalona]

[Text] Good morning dear television viewers. This morning in Moscow, Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and FAR minister, awarded the Antonio Maceo order to the K. Ye. Voroshilov Military Academy of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

During the ceremony, the FAR minister also awarded the Combat Comradeship in Arms medals to a group of teachers of this esteemed military academy. Raul Castro, who is visiting the USSR heading the Cuban delegation to the official ceremony of the 60th anniversary of the USSR, was accompanied by the other members of the Cuban delegation.

After reading the Cuban Council of State declaration awarding the decoration, the FAR minister delivered a speech emphasizing the friendship between the USSR and Cuba and the political and military personality of Antonio Maceo. Raul Castro said that since the triumph of the revolution, Soviet military specialists have made a permanent and decisive contribution to the construction, development and strengthening of the Cuban revolution by conveying to us their valuable experience and knowledge, without regard for sacrifice or time.

He emphasized that this spirit has prevailed in the historic role of this academy which, since its founding in 1918, based on Lenin's principles, has followed a long combative path. He went on to say that a large number of high-ranking FAR chiefs have learned the most advanced theories of military techniques and the use of arms and other means of modern combat in the Voroshilov academy. He added that the Cuban leaders and officers who graduated from this academy are now FAR commanders, engineers, technicians and political workers, who for the last 20 years have trained annually in prestigious Soviet military academies, schools and institutes.

Raul Castro also said that the figure of Gen Antonio Maceo -- the name of the order awarded to the Soviet academy -- represents the highest symbol of the revolutionary military chiefs who in the 19th century confronted colonial domination. He said that Antonio Maceo -- the bronze titan who emerged as a simple soldier out of the most discriminated against and humble ranks of our people -- won, in the battlefields, the highest rank in the liberating army and became one of the main political leaders of that legendary period. Raul Castro, after recalling the dignified gesture of Maceo, who rejected peace without independence in the historic Baragua protest, emphasized that Cubans have learned from this distinguished patriot the principle that anyone trying to take over Cuba, will only be able to take the dust of the earth soaked in blood, if they do not die in combat. The FAR minister also said that Maceo was not just a fighter who gave his all for the sacred interests of his people but also a man who excelled with ideas, with anti-imperialist thoughts and who was able to predict the evils of any dependency on the then growing U.S. imperialism.

The chief of the Soviet academy expressed his gratitude for the high order awarded by the Cuban Council of State by greeting the Cuban people, the Communist Party of Cuba, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army Gen Raul Castro. Koslov emphasized the special attention which the Soviet Government and party, the defense minister, the General Staff Command and the main political leadership of the USSR Armed Forces pay to this academy. He also said that on 1 January 1983, we are going to celebrate with the Cuban people the 24th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution, an experience which has not only attracted the attention of other Latin American people but also the attention of other regions of the world. In conclusion, Gen Mikhail Koslov said that all the workers of the K. Ye, Voroshilov Academy are working hard for the formation of a qualified cadre in the Soviet Armed Forces as well as in other socialist countries.

As I previously mentioned, this ceremony took place this morning. Right now we can see on Soviet television the Cuban delegation in Red Square placing a wreath at the Lenin Mausoleum. In a few minutes, the Cuban delegation will visit the monument to the unknown soldier where they will also place a wreath. This is the information we have for you from Moscow.

VALDES, HORVATH OPEN TALKS IN BUDAPEST

FL202110 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1510 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, our country's interior minister, and his Hungarian counterpart, Dr Istvan Horvath, today opened official talks in Budapest. During their meeting they exchanged notes related to their respective ministries Earlier, Ramiro Valdes placed a wreath at the National Heroes Monument.

The member of our party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers arrived in Budapest from Czechoslovakia on Sunday, leading a delegation invited by the Hungarian interior minister.

During his stay in Prague, Ramiro Valdes was received by the head of state and general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Gustav Husak.

DELEGATION MEETS WITH NORTH KOREAN PREMIER

FL202158 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1912 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] DPRK Premier Yi Chong-ok, member of the Standing Committee of the Korean Workers Party Political Bureau, today received in Pyongyang Silvio Placencia, vice president of the Havana City Province People's Government Executive Committee.

During the meeting, the Korean leader stressed the importance of developing bilateral relations and exchanging experiences between the two organizations of the Korean and Cuban people's government.

The Cuban delegation, headed by Placencia, had earlier been honored in a mass meeting held at Moranbong Theater before more than 1,000 workers from the Korean capital. In their speeches, the speakers denounced U.S. aggression against Cuba and the DPRK and the illegal occupation of the Guantanamo Base. They also praised the efforts of the two peoples to build a new society.

'IMPERIALIST PRESSURES' ON SURINAME NOTED

PA172007 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 15 Dec 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] A few weeks ago the Surinamese Government aborted a coup promoted by the country's economic elite, supported from abroad, who were trying to frustrate the revolutionary process that began after the Henck Alfonsius Eugene Arron pro-Netherlands government was overthrown on 25 February 1980. The would-be coupists wanted to again deliver the small country into the hands of imperialism and the transnationals.

Col Daysi Bouterse reported that 15 of the conspirators whom the revolutionary forces arrested were killed when they tried to escape while being transferred from the Paramaribo Police General Headquarters to (Menreboeloy) Prison. The government immediately took political and military measures to guarantee the country's return to normalcy. At the same time, Prime Minister Henry N. Neyhorst's cabinet submitted their resignations in an act which Bouterse described as understandable, in view of the constant challenges of reaction.

Immediately after the measures were announced in Suriname in view of the aborted coup, the former metropolis, The Netherlands, announced its decision to stop all its economic aid to the country. According to political observers this action was ordered by the White House where U.S. Government spokesmen had already voiced their discontent over the measures enforced by the Surinamese authorities. The White House spokesmen also announced that Washington is planning to cancel the economic aid it had promised Suriname and that it is preparing to evacuate the U.S. citizens living in Paramaribo. However, the Yankee government admitted that none of the U.S. citizens in Paramaribo is in any danger but added that an airplane is ready in Miami should the need arise.

All these U.S. and Netherlands actions are new maneuvers intended to politically and economically pressure the young Republic of Suriname and to create difficulties with the intention of frustrating the revolutionary process which has growing popular support.

In the past 3 years the Surinamese Government has had to cope with many maneuvers and hostile actions by the internal reaction which receives increasing support from Washington and The Hague. However, despite all the pressures intended to overthrow the Surinamese Government, Col Daysi Bouterse and the group of young officers that back him have been able to structure a process of broad popular, democratic and nationalist representation that slowly has been eliminating all traces of the former neocolonialist regimes.

In the Caribbean, Suriname is developing an independent and nonaligned foreign policy that has led the government to identify itself with Grenada and other progressive countries of the area. In view of this, the U.S. Government has decided to exclude these two countries from the so-called Caribbean Basin plan promised by President Reagan. More recently Washington, with the cooperation of some of its Caribbean allies, suggested that Grenada be expelled from the Caribbean Community and that Suriname be kept from joining this organization as an observer. In both cases the maneuver failed but the pretext was the same; the two countries have refused to support the so-called British-style parliamentary democracy.

In November, during Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's visit to Suriname, the Surinamese reactionaries tried to start a general strike to destabilize the country.

The strike was quickly neutralized by the mobilization of the people who again demonstrated their willingness to defend the revolutionary process.

Almost 4 years since the beginning of the revolutionary process in Suriname, that Caribbean nation has become a new target for the area imperialists who are trying against popular will to push Suriname back to the times of colonial and neocolonial exploitation.

KAMPUCHEA'S MEN CHHAN TALKS TO DELEGATION

FL181255 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Men Chhan, vice chairman of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS], has received in Phnom Penh a delegation from the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, ICAP, headed by its president, Rene Rodriguez Cruz.

During the meeting, Men Chhan reitereated to Rodriguez Cruz the determination of the KNUFNS and of the Kampuchean people to rebuild the national economy and expand military relations with friendly countries, particularly Cuba.

Men Chann expressed his gratitude to the Communist Party of Cuba and its people for their support of the Kampuchean people, particularly for their efforts to keep representatives of the Pol Pot genocidal regime out of the Nonaligned Movement.

AMBASSADOR RECEIVED BY GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER

FL162147 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2112 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] In Athens, Greek Foreign Minister Ioannis Kharalambopoulos has received Cuban Ambassador Roberto Mulet del Valle, who is completing his tour of duty in that country. During the talks, the two sides examined various aspects of the bilateral relations, among them the upcoming opening of the Greek Embassy in Cuba and current international problems.

GUELMES ENDS VISIT TO VIETNAM, DEPARTS

FL172255 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Cuban Communications Minister Pedro Guelmes and the delegation accompanying him have concluded a 3-day visit to Vietnam. The Cuban delegation held talks with a delegation of Vietnam's General Department of Mail Services and Telegraph, headed by its director Pham Niem, on promoting postal cooperation between the two countries.

CTC URGES SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUAN PEOPLE

PA170309 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] The Central Organization of Cuban Workers, CTC, has urged all similar organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the WFTU, to express their firm support of the Nicaraguan people and to condemn the actions of U.S. imperialism, which is trying to defeat the victorious Sandinist revolution from Honduran territory.

The CTC reiterates its firm solidarity with the Nicaraguan workers and people following the death of 75 children who were being evacuated from the border area with Honduras. This area is subject to constant attacks by counterrevolutionary groups.

The Cuban workers' highest organization says that it is not mere coincidence that the actions against Nicaragua increased after U.S. President Ronald Reagan's visit to Honduras and to Costa Rica, a country that is increasingly becoming an accomplice in Washington's aggressive plans.

POLITICAL PRISONERS APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

PA171750 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Dec 82 p 16A

["LA NACION's Forum" column: "A Call From Cuban Prisoners"]

[Text] LA NACION has received this document signed by 11 "political" prisoners in Cuba's Boniato Prison and sent to the world press and important personalities.

We, the undersigned, faithful interpreters of man's full dignity as presented by Jose Marti, very aware of our historical responsibility as Cuban political prisoners behind the walls in Boniato, denounce to the world the merciless penitentiary policy of the present Cuban communist regime against its ideological prisoners. At the same time, we communicate the just reasons that compel us to declare ourselves on a hunger strike for as long as the illegal circumstances persist that constitute a flagrant violation of human rights and all standards of universal law.

In an interview with a group of U.S. and exile Cuban newsmen on 6 September 1978, Fidel Castro answered a question asked by Manuel de Rios Vasquez (LA PRENSA, New York) on the remaining political prisoners not included in the amnesty: "Well, of course, they have their sentences; they will be released when they have served their time." However, showing once more his total disregard for all feelings of justice and denying his own words, Castro arbitrarily holds in prison, as the state's hostages, those imprisoned for political causes who have served their long sentences of 15, 18 and 20 years down to the last second. He yearns to satisfy his perverse desires even further by denying us the right recognized to every citizen of a civilized nation to recover his freedom and return to his home once he has served his time.

Thirty-three Cuban political prisoners find ourselves in this new situation -- that is, we have, in fact, been condemned to life sentences. In view of this, we have decided to drink only water after 10 October 1982, date of reaffirmation of our homeland's honor, to demand our freedom, as long as water is not denied us by the authorities, as has happened in other instances. Although it is true that our bodies are undermined by the diseases caused by years of savagery and inhuman prison conditions, it is also true that our spirits have recovered their moral firmness and strength.

Therefore, we hold the communist government of Havana responsible for, and guilty of, what might happen to us. We appeal to all international organizations and all free men and ask them for the stoutest solidarity and mobilization in this difficult hour. We trust that we will be exiled from Cuba and that this clamor for justice will reach the heart of mankind. Only human solidarity and God's mercy can help us.

[Signed] Hector Cabrera T. and others

DOMINICA

DLMA BLASTS DISAPPROVAL OF LIBYAN SCHOLARSHIPS

FL210001 Bridgetown CANA in English 2054 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Dec 20, CANA -- A leftist political group here, the Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance (DLMA) said today that it will continue to send Dominicans to Libya to study, despite the disapproval of the island's government. In a statement signed by the party's general secretary, Dr Bill Riviere, the Alliance declared: "Our party will...not just continue to send students to Libya, but whenever we deem it in the interest of our national development we will seek opportunities for Dominicans to pursue studies in other countries."

Last week Prime Minister Eugenia Charles told Parliament that 28 Dominicans had travelled to Libya ostensibly to study but 15 had returned without undertaking any studies. She told parliament then that Libya had been training Dominicans "in the method and in the philosophy of overthrowing governments."

The Alliance described Miss Charles' condemnation of the offer of scholarships of "childish and scandalous." "Our constitution gives our party the right to accept scholarships to whichever country we wish and Dominican nationals the freedom to travel to and study in any country of their choice," the Alliance said. The party also rejected government's claim that the scholarships had been secretly offered, saying that such "is total foolishness intended to mislead the people."

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT RELEASES NEW GROUP OF DETAINEES

FL181655 Bridgetown CANA in English 1628 GMT 18 Dec 82

[By Alister Hughes]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Dec 18, CANA — Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has released another batch of detainees, Commissioner of Prisons Patrick MacLeish confirmed today. MacLeish said the prisoners were freed yesterday, but he declined to say how many were released or give their names. The names he said would not be available before Monday.

Unconfirmed reports put the number released from Richmond Hill Prisons at 38. Informed sources here said that a further 20 had been allowed to go home from a detention camp at Hope Vale, a few miles east of St Georges, where political prisoners are also held.

This is the second lot of political detainees released by the People's Revolutionary Government in a month. On November 17, 28 were set free, but their passports were confiscated and they must report to the police fortnightly. At the time of that release, Minister of Mobilisation Selwyn Strachan said the PRG's policy is to review the cases of political prisoners continually and it was felt that those set free no longer posed a threat to national security.

The PRG, which came to power in a March 1979 coup, has been under increasing Caribbean pressure to free all its political prisoners — some held since the time of the revolution.

The issue came up at last month's Caribbean Community summit of heads of government in Jamaica, with Barbados pressing the conference to adopt a human rights resolution that sought to outlaw the holding of political prisoners in Caricom. The resolution, which would have required the unanimous affirmative vote by all 13 heads of government, including Grenada's, was revised to broaden its scope and remove any apparent reference to Grenada.

TOURISM MINISTER, LARGE INVESTMENT ANNOUNCED

FL181800 Bridgetown CANA in English 1726 GMT 18 Dec 82

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Dec 18, CANA -- Grenada has appointed a minister with the sole responsibility for tourism and civil aviation and announced plans to invest 400 million dollars (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.) in the industry over the next three years. The government said Deputy Minister of Finance Lyden Ramdhanny assumed responsibility for tourism Wednesday - a post previously held by Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman.

The move increases the cabinet from 10 to 11 members. A Government Information Service (GIS) release said the appointment of Mr Ramdhanny, who was a prominent businessman prior to entering the government service after the March 1979 coup, which brought the present administration to power, resulted from recognition of "the critical importance of tourism to the development of our country."

The government also reported that its investment into tourism would include funds for the completion of an international airport, the appointment of a number of tourism officers, the opening of new tourism offices in North America, Europe and the Caribbean and the construction of new hotels. The government said its tourism thrust would include increased promotional efforts in North America and Europe.

Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard announced last month that next year's tourism budget would show a substantial increase over this year's 1.1 million dollars. Mr Coard, who is also the minister of finance, said the 1984 tourism budget would be substantially increased to pave the way for the opening of the international airport which is being constructed in the south of the island.

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

SIMMONDS: LONDON TALKS 'TREMENDOUSLY SUCCESSFUL'

FL181705 Bridgetown CANA in English 1631 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Basseterre, St Christopher, Dec 18, CANA -- The St Christopher-Nevis government delegation, which attended the recent talks in London on the country's plans for independence next year, returned home last night to a heroes welcome from an estimated six thousand people who gathered at the Golden Rock Airport. Premier Dr Kennedy Simmonds, who led the government team, gave no details about the London constitutional talks, except describing them as "tremendously successful". He said the government was planning a public meeting for Pall Mall Square here shortly at which he will disclose plans to take this British associated state -- the last in the Caribbean -- into independence around the middle of next year.

The official opposition St Christopher-Nevis Labour Party also attended the talks, but its representatives walked out of the meeting more than once over differences with the government team on aspects of the state's new constitution.

Independence Set for September

FL181940 Bridgetown CANA in English 1918 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Basseterre, St Christopher, Dec 18, CANA — St Christopher - Nevis will move to independence in September next year, Prime Minister-designate Dr Kennedy Simmonds announced at a public rally last night shortly after his delegation's return home from constitutional talks in London. Dr Simmonds said that there were still a few loose ends to be tied off, "but we can seriously begin preparations for independence." He said a specific date had not yet been set, but the conference agreed on the month of September 1983.

Attorney General Tapley Seaton said that he was satisfied that "we've fashioned a document (constitution) which can withstand the test of time. A crowd of about 6,000 jubilant government supporters attended the rally. Meanwhile Nevis Reformation Party Leader Simeon Daniel, who is also the state's finance minister, was to lead an island-wide motorcade through Nevis this afternoon and then address a public meeting.

ST VINCENT

PEOPLE'S PARTY DISSOLVED; LEADER REJOINS NDP

FL181740 Bridgetown CANA in English 1714 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Dec 18, CANA — Opposition parliamentarian Calder Williams, has announced that his Working People's Party (WPP) had been dissolved and he had rejoined the New Democratic Party (NDP) of leader of the opposition here, James Mitchell. Mr Williams himself a former opposition leader said he dissolved his WPP and rejoined the NDP because he considered the question of "opposition unity" to be the most important factor for the future development of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

There are three elected members of parliament here in opposition to the 13 government members of the ruling St Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) of Prime Minister Milton Cato. All three were from different parties. Calder Williams led the WPP, James Mitchell is president and leader of the NDP while Randolph Russell, who until early last year was minister of health in the present Milton Cato administration is leader of the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP).

Mr Williams, last year stepped down as leader of the opposition in favour of Randolph Russell when he (Russell) resigned as minister of health to form the PDP.

Four months ago Williams withdrew his support for Russell and shifted his allegiance to Mitchell.

Mr Williams has now said that only by coming together could the forces of the opposition seriously present any real alternative to the ruling SVLP now serving its second consecutive five-year term in office here. He added: "I hope that other opposition parties would take (note of the) pattern."

The dissolution of the two-year-old Working People's Party (WPP) has now reduced the number of opposition parties here to seven.

Williams won his seat in the 1979 general election here on an NDP ticket.

PROTEST NOTE SENT TO NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT

FL210240 Paramaribo Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] In a note to the Dutch Government on Saturday last, the Surinamese military authorities have expressed their amazement at the Dutch decision to stop its Surinamese duties which are risen from the existing treaties between these two countries. [Words indistinct] from a counterrevolutionary plot on December 8 last. The Dutch Government in reaction declared its suspension of all military aid and development cooperation and social agreements with the Republic of Suriname.

The Surinamese authorities have said in the note that the points of view which forms the basis for the creation of this relevant treaty in 1975 and 1976 are today still applicable. Apart from this, this country is unable to see any grounds on which the Dutch Government's decision can be based. Referring to the Dutch Government (?allegations) that a drastic change has taken [words indistinct], this does not [words indistinct] cancelling these agreements [words indistinct] development and cooperation.

The Surinamese authorities point out that the socio-economic situation in this republic has not undergone any fundamental changes. The note reminds the Dutch Government that the agreements on development cooperation was created in an effort to increase the economic (?resistance) in the Surinamese Republic, increase the employment possibilities, improve the living conditions of the entire population and shift the concentration from (?urban) to regional service. It further stressed that there are no political conditions attached to any of the treaties in question which can justify the actions of the Dutch Government.

The people of Suriname, therefore, increasingly form their impression that the Dutch are using these treaties as an instrument to influence the internal Surinamese situation.

In so much as this can be termed as an unacceptable interference in this country's internal affairs, the Republic of Surinamese urges the Dutch Government, in all seriousness, to review its decision.

NETHERLANDS ENVOY RESIGNS 'IN PROTEST' 17 DEC

NC172259 Paris AFP in English 2249 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] The Hague, Dec 17 (AFP) -- Suriname's consul-general to Amsterdam, Johan de Vries, resigned today in protest against the military coup last week, bringing to two the number of Suriname diplomats who have quit since the bloody takeover.

Suriname's ambassador to the United Nations, R. Sewradsing, resigned yesterday, telling the military junta in Paramaribo that he could no longer represent the regime after incidents such as the summary execution of at least 25 people. The United States Government also announced the suspension of all military and economic aid, totalling 1.5 million dollars, pending "an explanation of recent events and of the direction" taken by the new authorities.

COLOMBIA

FOREIGN MINISTER'S RELATIVE KIDNAPPED IN CALI

PA201640 Paris AFP in Spanish 1631 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 20 Dec -- Maria Antonia Garces de Lloreda, sister-in-law of Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda, was kidnapped here this morning by two men carrying automatic weapons, according to police. The kidnapping took place in the southern sector of Cali as Mrs Lloreda was leaving a medical center. She was forced into a white automobile, which took off for an unknown destination. Mrs Garces de Lloreda is the director of the Fine Arts Institute of Valle del Cauca Province. Police and army personnel were mobilized in an attempt to locate the victim. The main streets of Cali, as well as land transportation terminals and Palmaseca Airport, are under strict surveillance.

ECUADOR

RETIRED GENERAL FORMS NEW POLITICAL PARTY

PA191631 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Yesterday afternoon in an office located at Garcia Moreno and Olmedo Streets, a new political movement was founded. Its name is the Progressive Patriotic Action Party [Partido de Accion Patriotica Progresista] and its national director is retired Gen Richelieu Levoyer who declared the party's opposition to the current government. In the founding ceremony, General Levoyer announced the ideological principles of the new political organization. He harshly accused President Oswaldo Hurtado's government of irresponsibility and cowardice in reference to the economic crisis it has brought on the Ecuadorean people and for not defending our resources and territorial borders. Levoyer said that his party will defend the people's highest interests since the politicians have talked a lot about changes but have done nothing. Levoyer also said that the new party will defend private property whenever that property is at the service of society. He added that the party members are patriotic because they seek the national [word indistinct] and the defense of the national sovereignty expressed in the defense of Ecuador's territory and natural resources.

VENEZUELA

95 KILLED IN POWER PLANT FIRE, 143 INJURED

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[Text] Caracas, 19 Dec (EFE) -- The death toll in the huge fire that occurred today on the coast of central Venezuela has risen to 95, while the number of seriously injured persons is now 143. In addition, many persons are missing. According to a metropolitan police report, the death list includes 30 firemen, 60 civilians and 5 policemen. The fire began in the Tacos Electric Power Plant in Arrecife, 30 km north of Caracas, when a fuel tank containing 100,000 barrels of residual fuel oil exploded. Firemen were trying to put out this fire when two other storage tanks exploded, causing the large number of victims. Caracas, whose electric power is supplied by the burning power plant, has suffered blackouts in some districts. Both the highway that connects the coast with the city and the international airport have been closed to traffic.